Humans/Animals: the More-than-Human in Anthropology

Instructor: Dr. Zoe Todd
E-mail: ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca
Class location: TB 240
Class time: Monday: 11:35 – 2:25 PM, Mondays
Office location: Loeb D797
Office Ph. No: 613-520-2600 Ext. 4007
Office Hours:
- physical office hours by appointment (contact me by e-mail to arrange a meeting)
- Virtual office hours on CuLearn (BigBlueButton): Tuesdays 3-4 PM

Lecture three hours a week.
ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reading Quiz** (5%) (September 25)
  - quiz on readings up to and including those assigned for September 25 class.

- **Writing reflection 1**: reflection on readings (500-750 words) (15%) (due at beginning of class on October 16)
  - students will be expected to reflect on readings completed up to this point in class (ie: readings assigned from September 18 to October 16, inclusive). Assignment expectations will be further outlined in class.

- **Writing reflection 2**: reflection on readings (500-750 words) (15%) (due at beginning of class on November 6)
  - students will be expected to reflect on readings completed between October 30 and November 6, inclusive. Assignment expectations will be further outlined in class.

- **Ottawa River watershed more-than-human portfolio** (20%) (to be submitted November 20)
  - students must prepare a portfolio/dossier on a specific animal, plant, geologic formation, micro-organism, insect (or other more-than-human being) that is found in the Ottawa River watershed. You are expected to prepare this portfolio (ie: collect articles, photos, stories, and other secondary sources) throughout the semester and deliver the final product with a 2 page precis outlining what you have collected on this nonhuman and why you chose to learn more about it.
    - Students will be asked to apply the anthropological methods, theories and approaches studied in class to analyze, summarize and respond to this nonhuman being and why it is important to the Ottawa River watershed.
  - Assignment expectations (timelines, rubric) will be further outlined in class
  - **(Topics to be confirmed in writing with instructor by October 30) (5%)**

- **Participation**: submission of weekly in-class one paragraph reflections (questions delivered in-class, assignment written up in class) (10%)

- **Final Essay**: (due at the beginning of class on 08 December): a final essay on an anthropology’s approach to human-animal relations/research (3000-5000 words) will be completed (30%) (topics should be finalized by November, and students are encouraged to meet with me to discuss the essay throughout the term)
Calendar Description:
Anthropology and the Environment
Examination of relationships between humans and animals in the anthropological canon, including:

- multispecies ethnography, the role of the ‘more than human’ in Indigenous legal orders, posthumanist and STS theory, relationships between humans and animals and other non-human entities in the Anthropocene.

I. Course Description and Objectives:
This course will provide an overview of the relationship between humans and more-than-human beings, as understood in anthropology in the past and present. We will examine case studies of human-animal and human-environmental relations and how anthropological methods and theory can be used to understand and critically analyze these relationships. We will also consider critiques of anthropology’s approach to human-nonhuman relations offered by Indigenous peoples/scholars/thinkers/organizations; environmentalists; and a variety of other actors.

The course material draws upon a range of sources, including materials from anthropology, Science and Technology Studies, Indigenous Studies, Geography and other disciplines. The aim of the course is to encourage students to be able to, in writing and in oral presentation work:

a) identify historical and contemporary human/nonhuman relations as they are addressed within the North American (socio-cultural) anthropological canon
b) become more familiar with the more-than-human constituents of the unceded Algonquin Territory the class takes place in
c) analyze popular media and academic narratives of human/nonhuman issues
d) apply critical anthropological discourses to understanding a) relationships between humans and more-than-humans and b) how these relationships are shaped by, and understood through, dynamic and diverse socio-cultural factors/lenses throughout the world

II. Course Policies

Communications:
If you have questions about class readings and assignments, you can reach me by email at ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca, through the e-mail function in CuLearn, or by contacting me during office hours (which are noted above). I will try to answer all correspondence within 48 hours. I read and respond to emails between 9 AM to 5 PM on weekdays, and I do not check or answer e-mails on the weekend.

(Do not contact Zoe.Todd@carleton.ca as this address belongs to a different person and your e-mails will not reach me)

For submission of assignments, please use the email function in CuLearn to submit electronic copies of course materials to me (in addition to the hard copies you will submit in class). I will send out correspondence to the class (re: assignments, readings) through CuLearn. I strongly recommend that students use CuLearn email for course correspondence with me and your fellow classmates—this will ensure that if something does not get through to me, there is a record of your correspondence saved in CuLearn.
Class Conduct:
The materials covered in this course will engage a range of complex topics. It is important that these issues be addressed collectively within the class in a sensitive, respectful and accountable manner.

Assignment Submission:
Course assignments shall be submitted to me in hard copy in class on the date it is due, AND you must submit an electronic copy of all assignments through email at ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca (if file is too large to upload to the email, then you may use email me a link to your assignment sent via a file transfer program such as WeTransfer.com or Dropbox). Please retain a copy of all assignments—if one of your assignments is not received by me because it is lost, misplaced or otherwise goes missing, you will be responsible for submitting a backup copy immediately upon request. Do not submit assignments under my door. Quizzes and other in-course assignments will be returned in class, and assessments will also be returned in class. Final assignments (essay) will be available for pick up from my office once they are marked.

There is a 5% penalty for each day that an assignment is late.

III. Texts:

Required Texts:


These texts are both available for order via Amazon.

--a copy of the required textbook has been placed on reserve at MacOdrum Library
--other course readings (articles) will be made available electronically through CuLearn (we will go over how to access these on the first day of class)
IV. Course calendar:
Class Schedule:

1. September 11 – Introduction to the course, ‘what is the more-than-human?’
   - Discussion of syllabus and expectations
   - Viewing of first half of the documentary *Birds of a Feather*.

2. September 18 - human-nonhuman relations and anthropology, an introduction
   Readings to be done before class:
   - *Braiding Sweetgrass*–Chapter 1: “Planting Sweetgrass” (pp. 3-48)
   - *When Species Meet* – Chapter 1: “Introduction” (pp. 3-45)

3. September 25 –Nature/Culture: where does the more-than-human reside?
   >>>>>>READING QUIZ <<<<<<<<
   - *Braiding Sweetgrass*–Chapter 2 "Tending Sweetgrass" (pp. 49-71)
   - *When Species Meet* – Chapter 2 “Value Added Dogs and Lively Capital” (pp. 45-68)

4. October 2 – Multispecies ethnography: where do species meet in anthropology?
   - *Braiding Sweetgrass*—Chapter 2, continued “Tending Sweetgrass” (pp. 72-105)
   - *When Species Meet* – Chapter 3 “Sharing Suffering” (pp. 69-94)
     https://culanth.org/fieldsights/277-the-emergence-of-multispecies-ethnography

5. October 9 (No class – Thanksgiving)

6. October 16 – More-than-human relations I: Rocks, glaciers and geologics
   READING REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

7. October 23 – Fall Break

8. October 30 More-than-human relations II: Indigenous cosmologies and the more-than-human
   - *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 3, “Picking Sweetgrass” (pp. 106-174)

   READING REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
   - *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 3, “Picking Sweetgrass”(pp. 175-204)
   - *When Species Meet*: Chapter 4, “Friends, Foes, and Fashion Statements” (pp. 97-128)

In Class Viewing of Angry Inuk by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril

10. November 13 – Wildlife conservation and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 4, “Braiding Sweetgrass” (pp.205-240)
- *When Species Meet* Chapter 5: “Cloning Mutts, Saving Tigers: Bioethical Angst and Questions of Flourishing” (pp. 133-160)

11. November 20 – Decolonizing multispecies ethnography/posthumanism I: who is Posthumanism written for? Black and Indigenous feminist critiques of posthumanism

**OTTAWA RIVER WATERSHED NONHUMAN PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 4, “Braiding Sweetgrass” (pp.241-302)

12. November 27 – Decolonizing multispecies ethnography/posthumanism II: atmospheres/climate as nonhuman agents
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 5, “Burning Sweetgrass” (pp.303-340)

14. December 4 – toxic more-than-humanisms
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Chapter 5, “Burning Sweetgrass “ (pp.341-379)
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Epilogue: Returning the Gift (pp.380-385)

15. FRIDAY December 8<<<<<< Last Class

Final Assignments Due at beginning of class.

V. Evaluation:
For all assignments, citation and style guide is up to the student (ie: you may choose from APA, MLA, or Chicago) but pick one style and stick with it. Carleton Library has excellent resources on style guides here: https://www.library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources

I strongly recommend taking advantage of writing tutorial services offered by the library: https://carleton.ca/csas/writingservices/

**Grading rubric:**

From the University Calendar:
http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/

“2.3 Standing in Courses/Grading System
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade points indicated above are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

The following percentage equivalents apply to all final grades at Carleton:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other grades and notations in current use by the university are as follows:

F Failure. The grade of F is assigned when the student has failed to meet the conditions of “satisfactory performance” defined in the Course Outline. F carries 0.0 grade points.”

"Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.”

**VI. Statement on Plagiarism**

**PLAGIARISM**
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:
reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or
unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s
own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other
assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts,
or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

using another’s data or research findings;

failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using
another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more
than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the
submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor.
The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview
with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties
are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

VII. Requests for Academic Accommodations

“Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For
an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during
the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is
known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide (http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-
content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the
first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to
exist. For more details see the Student Guide (http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-
content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for
Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD),
psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism
Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing,
and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please
contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are
already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of
Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-
class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting
accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are
made. The deadline for contacting the PMC regarding accommodation for final exams for the
Fall exam period if November 10, 2017.