

## **THE PROPINQUITY OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS**

HONORS (HON) 383: Honors Colloquium, section 1, Fall 2017, 3 credit hours  
South Dakota State University (SDSU)  
Monday afternoons, 2:00-4:50 p.m., Honors Hall 118

### **INSTRUCTORS:**

Rebecca C. Bott-Knutson, Ph.D., Interim Dean, Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College, SDSU  
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Office Hours by appointment; call (above) or email [Sandra.newman@sdsu.edu](mailto:Sandra.newman@sdsu.edu) to schedule.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Propinquity of Humans and Animals: Historically, animals have provided humans with protection, companionship, food, fiber, sport, and work. While many animals are raised for the purpose of providing nourishment or other materials, others are raised to be companions or support animals. Some provide the sole source of income for families who are making ends meet from one day to the next. Students will explore the many and varied associations between humans and animals as well as the myriad of factors which impact these relationships. We will also examine the possible roles of these interactions on human mental and physical health.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

There are no pre-requisites for this course. However, students should be eligible for and enrolled in the Fishback Honors College.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

**Desire 2 Learn (D2L):** D2L will be an essential course resource. Course materials and grading will be facilitated through D2L. Course assignments will be submitted via the D2L Dropbox unless otherwise announced in class. <https://d2l.sdbor.edu/shared/sdsu/require.htm>

**Jacks E-mail:** Communication will be expected between instructors and students via the student's "Jacks" e-mail account. You must activate your "Jacks" email account immediately. This account is the official means of communication for SDSU. To activate your account, follow the instructions at <https://mystateonline.sdsu.edu>.

**Technical Support:** 605-688-6776 or [SDSU.supportdesk@sdsu.edu](mailto:SDSU.supportdesk@sdsu.edu)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

No texts are required, however there will be assigned weekly readings posted on D2L. Additional journal articles, excerpts from texts, poems, and videos will supplement these texts. Supplemental resources will be linked through the course D2L site.

### **COURSE GOALS:**

As a result of your enrollment in this class, we aim for you to be *empowered* with a new understanding of love, and with a new network of relationships that will allow you to:

1. Discuss relevant practices, research, theories and scholarly work related to the propinquity of humans and animals;
2. Explain the manifestation and influences of culture on the relationships between humans and animals;
3. Practice and demonstrate competence in critically evaluating animal research;
4. Think reflectively, creatively, and integratively about the importance of animals in your life;
5. Co-create and contribute to a welcoming, supportive, *honorable* classroom community that supports progress toward each of the learning goals above.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** As a result of taking the course(s) meeting this goal, students will:

1. *Effectively communicate ideas and beliefs with clarity, civility, and respect.*
2. *Analyze and integrate multiple sources of information and demonstrate applications of critical thinking.*
3. *Articulate personal values, beliefs, and self-identity.*
4. *Articulate the value of diversity, inclusion, and equity.*

**DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

This course will utilize a variety of pedagogical approaches, including lecture, discussion, and collaborative learning.

**KEY DEADLINES:**

Last day to drop/add a course: August 31, 2017.

Last day to drop with a "W" grade or withdraw from the university: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

See schedule for other key course deadlines.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance, active participation, and contribution to the classroom dynamic in the course is expected. True to the spirit of the Honors Colloquium, a significant portion of the course will involve discussion and group work. Points will be regularly awarded for in-class activities. These points may not be made up.

**MAJOR COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

1. Research project – 150 (proposal & outline 25; critique of two journal articles 25; paper 50; final presentation 50).

Students will work in teams to explore a research question relating to the propinquity of humans and animals utilizing 4 peer reviewed journal articles as well as one or more of the following methodologies: surveys, interviews, observation, artifacts and/or documentary data analysis, and/or mixed methodologies. They will submit proposals and outlines for their projects in addition to a critique of 2 journal articles September 11th; a 4-5 page research paper due October 30<sup>th</sup>, and 25 minute final presentations will be presented throughout the semester.

*The research project is designed to support course objectives 1 & 3 while assessing student progress on SLO 1 & 2.*

2. Animals in my discipline presentation – 50

Students will work in like-major groups to make a 15-minute class presentation in which they explore and discuss the relevance of animals in their academic/professional disciplines. These will be scheduled throughout the semester.

*The 'animals in my discipline' presentation is designed to support course objective 4 while assessing student progress on SLO 1 & 3.*

3. Weekly journal – 75

Students will keep a weekly personal journal (2-4 pages weekly) about the role of animals in their lives, integrating their lived experience along with information presented in class, and weekly reading assignments. Prompts will be provided for inspiration, but students are encouraged to write freely. Journals will be turned in three times throughout the semester: 9/18, 10/16, 11/27.

*The weekly journal is designed to support course objectives 1, 2, & 4 while assessing student progress on SLO 1, 2, 3, & 4.*

4. Passion becomes action project – 50

Students will put what they have learned about animals to use in a personal passion project in which they operationalize the principles of class. Students should investigate a non-profit organization related to a propinquity topic about which they are passionate. Students will prepare a formal 5 minute presentation including a summary of their passion, and the mission and operation of the related non-profit organization. Presentations will take place during class on December 4.

*The 'passion becomes action' project is designed to support course objective 4 while assessing student progress on SLO 3 & 4.*

5. Creative non-fiction 'culture of humans and animals' propinquity story – 75

Students will work throughout the semester to craft a creative non-fiction representation of the role of culture on the propinquity of humans and animals. This project may be completed in the form of original art, poetry, film, photography, or other creative representation. The creative story must be accompanied by a title, a 200 character description, and a carefully edited 400-500 word description of how culture is reflected in the propinquity story. Stories will be shared as the class's final exam on December 12th.

*The 'culture of humans and animals' propinquity story is designed to support course objective 2 while assessing student progress on SLO 1, 3, & 4.*

6. Guest speaker reaction papers – 50

A variety of guest speakers will present in class throughout the semester. Students will submit two 2-3 page reaction papers (25 points each) in which they summarize the

presentation, and integrate what they've learned with their evolving understanding of the relationships between humans and animals. These will be due by the class session immediately following the guests' presentation. Check the class schedule on who's coming when; note that at times this may be adjusted given guests' schedule and availability.

*The reaction papers are designed to support course objective 1 while assessing student progress on SLO 1 & 4.*

7. In class attendance, participation and activities – 50

Attendance, participation, and active engagement in classroom activities is expected. While points will not be granted for 'showing up' each week, in-class exercises will be administered regularly and points awards throughout the semester.

*The participation and activities are designed to support each of the course objectives while assessing student progress on a variety of SLO.*

The assignments above are summarized in the table below.

Assignment	Points	Date Due
Research project (RP)	150	9/11 proposal & critique (50) 10/30 papers (50) final presentations-throughout semester (50)
Animals in my discipline presentation (AIMD)	25	Scheduled throughout the semester
Weekly journal	75	9/18, 10/16, 11/27
Passion becomes action project	50	12/4
Creative non-fiction 'culture of humans and animals' propinquity story	75	12/12-Finals Week
Guest speaker reaction paper(s)	50 (2 at 25 points each)	One week following speaker
Attendance and participation	50	Points awarded throughout the semester
Total	500	

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE:**

- ✓ **Attendance counts.** Check the points!
- ✓ **Be present.** Enrollment in the Honors College calls students to think deeply and critically about their coursework and to be intellectually engaged in the experiences provided. We expect no less in Honors First Year Seminar.
- ✓ **Be proactive in your education.** Do your homework. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared and ready to engage on the topic of the week.
- ✓ **Timeliness is important.** Late assignments will be penalized accordingly.
- ✓ **Quality is of the essence.** Class projects should reflect your best, honest effort.

- ✓ **Communicate, communicate, communicate.** Need help? Something not clear? Contact us with questions, concerns, and achievements. We are here to support you!

### **COURSE GRADING**

Assignments will be graded in a timely manner, and grades will be posted on D2L throughout the semester. Students will be expected to follow a 24/7 policy for grade disputes. Once graded items are returned, students must wait 24 hours before bringing questions about the grade to course instructors or teaching assistants. All grade disputes must also occur within seven days of the date a graded item is returned. All grades will be considered final after seven days.

Letter grades will be awarded according to the following standard of excellence:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Points</b>
A	90-100	450-500
B	80-89	400-449
C	70-79	350-399
D	60-69	300-349
F	0-59	0-299

### **POLICY ON MISSED CLASSES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class or to the course D2L Dropbox prior to class on the date announced. Any alterations to the class schedule or assignment deadlines will be announced in class at least one week ahead of time. Assignments turned in late will lose one letter grade (i.e. 10%) per day late. Attendance points cannot be made up unless it is a university excused absence.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Honors College students are expected to abide by the highest standards of academic honesty. Presenting the work of others as though it is your own is dishonorable, unethical and unprofessional. The University has a clear expectation for academic integrity and does not tolerate academic dishonesty. University Policy 2:4 sets forth the definitions of academic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, and other forms of dishonesty relating to academics. The policy and its procedures also set forth how charges of academic dishonesty are handled at the University. Academic Dishonesty is strictly proscribed and if found may result in student discipline up to and including dismissal from the University. More information about academic policies and procedures can be found at <https://www.sdstate.edu/policies-and-procedures/section-2-academics> .

### **FREEDOM OF LEARNING**

Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any courses of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to

academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should first contact the instructor of the course. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the Department Head, Dean, or both, of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Nancy Hartenhoff-Crooks, Coordinator of Disability Services (605-688-4504) to privately discuss your specific needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in the University Student Union, Room 065. For more information please see <https://www.sdstate.edu/disability-services> .

### **VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities, and other qualifying needs) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructors of this class in order to address attendance requirements or other actions in accordance with SDBOR and University policies and procedures.

### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

In this class, people of all ethnicities, gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. Over the course of the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from SDSU's community or if you have any specific accommodations, please speak with me about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ANCESTRAL TERRITORY**

South Dakota State University is located on the ancestral territory of the Oceti Sakowin, (Seven Council Fires), an alliance that consisted of the Santee, Yankton, and Teton Lakota. They are commonly known as the Sioux by non-native people. The seven tribes now occupy nine different reservations in South Dakota. The nine reservations are: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe. As part of our university's effort to enact inclusive practices, this acknowledgement serves as a reminder that before this site was called SDSU, it was called home to Native Nations indigenous to this location.

For a broader discussion of these expectations, consult the *Fishback Honors College Student Ethic*.

**Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change as announced in class):**

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Guest(s) tentative	Assignments due
1	8/21	Course introduction: Exploring the relationships between humans and animals.	NA		
2	8/28	Culture	Walsh, 2009	Dr. Jessica Ulrich-Schad, Dr. Nathan Ziegler	
3	9/4	No Class Labor Day Holiday	NA		
4	9/11	Global Exploration of Animal Agriculture	Bradford, 1999	Dr. Dan Gee, Dr. Tofuko Woyengo,	RP proposals & journal critique due
5	9/18	Meat	Bradford, 1999	Dr. Bob Thaler, and industry panelists	Journals due in-class
6	9/25	Fiber	USU, 2012	tbd	AIMD (AgEd & AnSci)
7	10/2	Work	The Brooke, 2015	Dr. Bott- Knutson	AIMD (Pharmacy & Nursing)
8	10/9	No Class Native American Day	NA		
9	10/16	Service	ADA, 2011	Dr. Liz Droke, Ms. Linda Bohman  Introduce Passion Becomes Action Projects	Journals due in-class
10	10/23	Companion	Sanders, 2003	Mrs. Natalie Mook	1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker reflection paper due  AIMD (Econ/Bus) (Biology)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Guest(s) tentative	Assignments due
11	10/30	Sporting	NA	Drs. Rod and Shelly Brandenburger, Mr. Ron Skovly, Mr. Nick Kludt	RP papers due RP
12	11/6	Nature	Madden, 2004	tbd	RP
13	11/13	Biomedical Research	Ireland, 2008 Rollin, 2006 Cohen, 1986	Dr. Radhey Kaushik, Dr. Natalie Thiex, Dr. Chris Chase	RP
14	11/20	One Health	Zinsstag, 2011	Dr. Russ Daly	RP
15	11/27	Hope & Resilience	White Plume, 2016	(tentative) Dr. Mary Isaacson, Dr. Shelly Brandenburger, Mrs. Mary Beth Fishback, Mrs. Angie Varnum	Journals due in-class RP
16	12/4	Passion Becomes Action presentations	NA		Passion becomes action project
17 Finals week	12/12	Creative non-fiction readings and presentations	NA		Creative non-fiction propinquity story