

## Human and Animal Interactions in Australasia

**Course:** ANIM SCI 697.06 Credits: 03

**Prerequisites:** Permission of Instructor

**Course Offering:** Autumn Quarter, 2010

December 10 – 19, 2010

### Instructors

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### GEC Category 4; Diversity; International Issues

#### GEC Learning Objectives

International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and an increasingly globalized world. Through ANIM SCI 697.06, in combination with ANIM SCI 248 (Human and Animal Interactions in the United States), 1) students will learn and exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, peoples and cultures outside the US, including a specific examination in an Australasian country and compare their findings and experiences in relation to their previous enrollment and completion of Animal Sciences 248, Human and Animal Interactions in the United States; 2) students will be able to describe, analyze and critically evaluate the roles of categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, national origin and religion as they relate to international institutions, issues, cultures and citizenship; and 3) students will recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

With the combination of courses, (ANIM SCI 248 and ANIM SCI 697.06), students will expand their understanding of the role that animals play in shaping society, culture, and economics within the U.S. and Australasia. Students will maintain a travel log of their observations and impressions of the human and animal interactions and tour stops visited while traveling abroad. This travel log and the field trip essay assignments from ANIM SCI 248 will be integrated to develop the final reflection paper assignment in ANIM SCI 697.06. The instructors will evaluate the content of this final reflection paper (as well as the field trip essays and travel log) for the student's understanding of the importance of and differences in how humans interact with animals in different cultures.

## **Introduction**

The place of nonhuman animals in our global and local communities has long been the topic of controversial and emotional debate. An evaluation of the various roles for animals within our global society, which is informed and objective, requires that we learn to integrate moral views with biological, social and cultural facts. Unfortunately, there is limited transfer of this knowledge to people employed to work with animals and, more generally, to those with an interest in human-animal relationships. This short-term study abroad program will allow students to surround themselves with a different culture, geography, community/government infrastructure, and rich history to directly compare how those, and other aspects of that culture, shape and impact the role that animals have in that respective society. This course will offer an opportunity for students to broaden their educational program, gain a greater appreciation for cultural diversity, and provide a means to utilize skills and knowledge they have learned from multiple disciplines.

This is the second course in a two-course series (ANIM SCI 248 & ANIM SCI 697.06 [3 credits]) designed to give you an appreciation for how history, government, geography, and infrastructure can impact the use of animals within our society. Together, the two courses will provide you with an opportunity and a forum in which you can compare our mid-western culture (especially focusing on the role of animals in our immediate communities; ANIM SCI 248) with that of other cultures (and directly comparing it with an Australasian culture via travel to New Zealand; ANIM SCI 697.06). The combination of courses will require you to be actively engaged in the learning process, as most of the activities take place outside the traditional classroom via field trips and study abroad activities that involve experiencing and witnessing human/animal interaction in real-world settings.

## **Course Objectives:**

- To develop an understanding of how different cultures and complex demographics can impact and mold beliefs and traditions within various global regions
- To experience the beliefs and views of the Irish culture on the use and involvement of animals as part of their daily lives
- To compare the history, geography, and infrastructure of associated animal industries in New Zealand with those in the U.S. and their resulting impact on the role animals play in the respective cultures
- To enhance critical thinking and communication skills
- To provide students with an opportunity to exercise their skills in accessing, appraising and applying the best available evidence to problem solving

## **Methods of Evaluation:**

*Personal Travel Log:* Daily entries of observations and impressions of the human-animal interactions and tour stops visited while traveling through New Zealand. Travel logs will be collected, reviewed, graded, and returned three times during the trip (12/12/10, 12/15/10, and 12/19/10). The travel log should serve as a reference point for the Final Reflection Paper and will serve as an indication of active participation in the study abroad opportunity. Use the points outlined for your Final Reflection Paper (below) to provide guidance for the content of the journal entries. Students are required to purchase an inexpensive journal prior to departure for the trip. It is recommended that the pages of the journal be bound (composition style book or

spiral notebook) so that pages are not lost, and if possible, the journal should be able to accommodate brochures or other materials the students will collect at the tour stops.

*Final Reflection Paper:* Three to four pages in length. The final reflection paper should capture personal views regarding the human-animal interactions observed while traveling in New Zealand. Where possible, students are encouraged to identify areas of similarity and/or difference in the way human-animal interactions, issues, and uses influence United States and Irish cultures. A suggested approach for the Final Reflection Paper is listed below. Papers must be downloaded through Carmen by **5:00 pm, January 5, 2011**. Papers must be submitted using Arial, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, double spaced.

- 1) Introduction to the Subject/Topic
- 2) Body of Information addressing 2 or 3 of the following points:
  - a. Your attitude toward how animals were used in the chosen topic context
  - b. Ethical principles that guide your or society's views of how the animals are used in the chosen context as related to similarities or differences between the U.S. and New Zealand experiences
  - c. Impact of animal use on the biological/physiological processes of the animal within the chosen context when comparing U.S. and New Zealand experiences
  - d. Benefits or harms associated with using animals in the stated context as related to social, economic, and/or environmental considerations within and across U.S. and New Zealand
  - e. Philosophical, cultural, or societal norms or taboos in relation to animal use in the stated context when comparing U.S. and New Zealand experiences
- 3) Conclusion/Solution

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

You are expected to show up and be on time for all activities. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a **reduction of up to one letter grade** for each occurrence.

### **Grading**

#### *Criteria*

Personal Travel Log	30 pts
Final Reflection Paper ( <b>Due January 5, 2010 via the Carmen site</b> )	70 pts
Attendance and Punctuality	Adj. to Letter Grade
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

<i>Scale</i>	A = 93 to 100%	A- = 90 to 92%	B+ = 87 to 89%
	B = 83 to 86%	B- = 80 to 82%	C+ = 77 to 79%
	C = 73 to 76%	C- = 70 to 72%	D+ = 67 to 69%
	D = 63 to 66%	E = 62% or less	

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are subject to the provisions of the *Code of Student Conduct* ([http://www.asc.ohio-state.edu/honors/conduct\\_document.htm](http://www.asc.ohio-state.edu/honors/conduct_document.htm)), a compilation of rules and conduct and major policies and procedures affecting students. The code is published in the *Student Handbook* by the Office of Student Life. Academic misconduct (plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of misconduct as defined by the university) will not be tolerated in this course. According to Faculty Rule 3335-31-02 Academic Misconduct is defined as any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the educational process. Please see the Student Resource Guide or the instructor if you have questions about this policy.

**Disability Services**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Dr. Moeller privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.