

NSSR GPHI 6745-A/NYU PHIL-GA 2285-00

Animal Ethics

Spring 2020, Wednesdays 4-6pm

NSSR location 6 E. 16th St, Room 704/5 Washington Place, Room 202

Alice Crary

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Office hours M 12:15-1:45 and 3:45-4:15 and by apt.

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Syllabus

Description

Over the last few decades, a rich literature has developed on ethics and animals. In this seminar, we will discuss in detail two of the most substantial recent works: Christine Korsgaard's, 2018 book, *Fellow Creatures: Our Obligations to the Other Animals*, and Shelly Kagan's 2019 book, *How to Count Animals, more or less*. In addition to discussing theoretical issues in this domain, we will address practical consequences of the views under discussion, with particular attention to issues of predation and species.

Shelly Kagan will visit our seminar on March 4th, and it is possible that Christine Korsgaard will visit later in the semester. The first meeting of the seminar is exceptional in that it will be held at NSSR and will only be for New School students.

Required texts and other resources

You should purchase both the Kagan and the Korsgaard books, which have been ordered at Barnes & Noble, Union Square. Other readings will be made available to all students in the seminar on [Googledrive](#). Those registered for the course should be able to access the Googledrive folder through the posted versions of the syllabus (i.e., through an embedded link) at NSSR/Canvas and NYU/Classes. Auditors who would like to have access to course materials should give us their email addresses at the first meeting, so we can give send them a version of the syllabus with the link.

Course requirements

All enrolled students must:

- write **seven no more than 1-page** response papers, to be emailed by attachment to **both** Crary and Jamieson by midnight before 7 different seminar meetings. (Individual students should choose the submission dates for their seven 1-page papers according to their interest and convenience)
- write one 15-18-page seminar paper

Seminar papers will be due before class the day of our last meeting, Wednesday, May 6th.

Tentative schedule of meetings and readings

Week 1 (Wednesday, January 22nd) *This meeting is for students enrolled through NSSR only—and it will meet at NSSR*

No reading

Introduction to core themes in animal ethics. Our reference points will include Chapter 1 of Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation* (“All Animals are Equal...”) and Cora Diamond, “Eating Meat and Eating People.”

Week 2 (Wednesday, January 29th)

Introduction to the seminar

Reading

Kagan, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 3 (Wednesday, February 5th)

Reading

Kagan, Chapters 2-3

Week 4 (Wednesday, February 12th)

Reading

Kagan, Chapters 4-6

Week 5 (Wednesday, February 19th)

Reading

Kagan, Chapters 7-8

Week 6 (Wednesday, February 26th)

Reading

Kagan, Chapters 9-11

Week 7 (Wednesday, March 4th)

Shelly Kagan will visit our seminar today

No new reading

Week 8 (Wednesday, March 11th)

Reading

Korsgaard, Preface and Chapters 1-2

No class, Wednesday March 18th—Spring Break

Week 9 (Wednesday, March 25th)

Reading

Korsgaard, Chapters 3-4

Week 10 (Wednesday, April 1st)

Reading

Korsgaard, Chapters 5-7

Week 11 (Wednesday, April 8th)

Reading

Korsgaard, Chapters 8-9

Week 12 (Wednesday, April 15th)

Reading

Korsgaard, Chapters 10-12 (i.e., finish the book)

Week 13 (Wednesday, April 22nd)

From theory to practice I—wild animal suffering

Reading

Jeff McMahan, “The Moral Problem of Predation,” in Andrew Chignell et al., ed., *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*

Val Plumwood, “On Being Prey”

Week 14 (Wednesday, April 29th)

From theory to practice II—the value of species

Reading

Ron Sandler, “The Value of Species,” Chapter 2 of *The Ethics of Species: An Introduction*

Week 15 (Wednesday, May 6th) Course conclusions

No new reading

Papers due before class