

**Animal Crisis—seminar, fall 2022.**

It is urgently necessary to change the conversation about animal ethics. That's the thesis of this seminar's exploration of the animal question in ethics. Starting with an introduction to the discipline's current mainstream, we will ask about limitations and costs of treating animal ethics as an isolated area of study, and we will explore the possibility of making it more world-oriented and politically relevant by reconceiving it as a distinctive critical theory, specifically, one with ties to ecofeminism, theories of racial capitalism, ecological Marxism, and theories of social reproduction. We will foreground questions about the treatment of animals in particular settings with an eye to addressing these questions' importance, in the midst of an unfolding environmental catastrophe, at a time when it is undeniable that the human use and devastation of animals, and their habitats, represent a threat to the continued existence not only of animals but of human beings, and of a living earth.

Seminar materials will be interdisciplinary, emphasizing work in ethics and social philosophy and including not only work in ethology and history but also literature and narrative and documentary film.

Course readings will include work of, among others, Theodor Adorno, Joshua Bennett, Bénédicte Boisseron, Cora Diamond, John Bellamy Foster, Lori Gruen, Max Horkheimer, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, Claire Jean Kim, Aph Ko, Syl Ko, Christine Korsgaard, Jeff McMahan, Carolyn Merchant, Jennifer Morgan, Johanna Oksala, Val Plumwood, Cedric Robinson, Peter Singer, and Kyle Powys Whyte.

Course texts will include Alice Cary and Lori Gruen, *Animal Crisis*, Polity 2022.