

Fall, 2010

## **Topics in Farm Animal Stress, Behavior and Animal Welfare**

**-- Animal Rights Philosophy and Animal Welfare Perspectives**

**ANSC 5318**

**Professor John McGlone, TTU**

**Class Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM Wednesdays**

**Additional discussion time to be arranged**

### **Background**

The field of environmental physiology including studies of animal behavior, stress physiology and animal welfare is a diverse topic area. To work in this area requires a multi-disciplinary education and research program. Graduate students typically work in fields including, at least, animal behavior, neuroscience, immunology, endocrinology, psychology, philosophy, and statistics. Most students work in at least 2 of these fields, but to work in this area some knowledge of all areas is required.

Students and faculty would benefit from interactions among the diverse fields and institutions. In addition, the burden on individual institutions to have a full program is lifted. Rather, expertise can be developed at different institutions and then the whole field can be studied by each institution's students without the limitation of local expertise. Our new virtual world associated with the internet and distance education will make this concept easy to implement. This course includes the potential for on-line, live interaction among students, faculty, and guests.

The topic of animal rights and animal welfare has a long history. The general public is now interested in the topic largely due to activist activities. Most people have heard of PETA and HSUS. If people are concerned with ethical issues of animal welfare, then a firm foundation in the history and philosophy of animal rights and welfare is required.

### **Course Format & Requirements**

The general *Topics* course will have a combined topics/seminar/readings format. The instructors will select a reading list that may include but are not limited to books, review articles or original research papers. The readings will include both classic literature in a given field in conjunction with current materials.

Students will meet on line on a regular basis. The meeting time may vary with semester, but it will generally be two hours per week when the class is in session. Students will be on line during this 2-hour session and they will participate in the topic to be discussed that week.

### **Specific Information for this Semester**

This semester topic is the philosophy of animal welfare and animal rights. This is meant to give students a foundation in diverse views held by different groups and by different thinkers over time.

Students will read 6 assigned books and select a seventh book to read and report to the class and the instructor. Because of the large amount of reading, we suggest you set aside time each day for reading. Use breaks to catch up and get ahead of the assigned readings. Assignments about readings to be discussed are due

24 hours before the class meeting each week. If a student fails to submit their written assignment about a given book by the required time, they will not be permitted to participate in class. This assures each student is prepared for a hearty, thoughtful discussion about the topic of the week.

Students will write an objective summary of each reading assignment in the form of a one-page, single spaced abstract. And they will answer specific questions about that book for the six main books to be read.

Students will build a summary paper or binder with abstracts and writing assignments. At the end of this collection of abstracts and answers to questions, students will prepare a summary of their views of animal rights and animal welfare, taking into account the readings they have done. Students will turn this book-summary paper in to the instructor at the end of the semester before the final exam.

Students will also prepare a summary of animal rights/welfare organizations. Included in this paper will be the name of the organization, its mission and vision, its funding, its board of directors, and its position on farm animal issues. A list of organizations is provided here:

- The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- American Humane Association/American Humane/American Humane Certified (AHC)
- Farm Sanctuary
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)
- Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC)
- Humane Farming Association (HFA)
- Compassion in World Farming (CWF)
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA)

For these organizations, and others if you chose, please provide the following information in a report:

- Official Name (names)
- Headquarters address and phone number
- Web page in general
- Web page for farm animal issues (if different from above)
- Organizational mission
- Board members
- Recent annual budget
- Brief history of the organization
- Members of any advisory committee for farm animal issues
- What they say about farm animals (be sure to use quotes when you pull information from the web, and cite the web page and date accessed)
- Your interpretation of their ethical views of farm animals and their positions about major farm animal welfare issues (this can be less than a page, but more than a quarter page (300-500 words).

This summary of organizations is due by October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm CDT.

The emphasis on the exams and writing is to first document facts and positions taken by authors and then to critical think and integrate materials. For the six books that will be reviewed as the core material for the course, please answer the following questions:

- Heading lines: Your name, Your Institution, The date you filed the report, your e-mail address
- Book Information: Title, Date, Author, Year, Publisher

Address these questions in your summary of 1-page (300-500 words):

- Summarize the main points of the book.
- Place the book in the context of other writings that preceded the book.
- Does the book provide a new perspective in farm animal welfare?
- Do you find the book realistic, inflammatory, factual, or not? Be objective. Cite specific text to make your points.

Please save your personal views of farm animal welfare/animal rights in general for the summary you write about all the books near the end of the semester (see time table and due dates).

In the student presentations, answer the same questions as above for the book you read and will summarize.

### Requirements

Summary of reading assignments:

- Read 6 primary books
- Select one book to read of those listed (or you may pick another book on the topic with approval of the instructor)

Summary of writing/presentation assignments

- 7 book summaries due each week 24 h before class on that book
- Animal Welfare/Rights organizational report
- Present your selected book to the class in 15 minutes
- Overall book/binder of book summaries followed by a short report with your thoughtful views on farm animal welfare
- Written final exam

Grading: 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D, <60% = F.

Grade components:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of Points</u>
Seven (7) Book Summaries	70	23.3%
Animal Welfare Organizations summary	50	16.7%
Your oral presentation of a book of your choice	30	10.0%
Summary book/binder with your views	50	16.7%
Final exam	100	33.3%
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Total	300	100%

Fall, 2010

Day	Date	Class #	Item	Time	Items Due
Wednesday	25-Aug	1	Organizational Meeting	10-11:20 AM CDT	
Wednesday	1-Sep	2	Background; Introduction to the Jungle	10-11:20 AM CDT	
Wednesday	8-Sep	3	The Jungle: Upton Sinclair	10-11:20 AM CDT	7-Sept; Jungle report due
Wednesday	15-Sep	4	Animal Liberation: Singer	10-11:20 AM CDT	14-Sep; Singer report due for Animal Liberation
Wednesday	22-Sep	5	Ethics into Action: Singer	10-11:20 AM CDT	21-Sep; Singer report due for Ethics into Action
Wednesday	29-Sep	--	BIO meeting in SD	No class	
Wednesday	6-Oct	6	Dominion: Scully	10-11:20 AM CDT	5-Oct; Scully report due
Wednesday	13-Oct	7	Slaughterhouse: Eisnitz	10-11:20 AM CDT	12-Oct; Eisnitz report due
Wednesday	20-Oct	8	The Omnivore's Dilemma: Pollan	10-11:20 AM CDT	19-Oct Pollan report due
Wednesday	27-Oct	9	Comparing and contrasting views	10-11:20 AM CDT	26-Oct, AW Organization report due
Wednesday	3-Nov	10	Student Presentations	10-11:20 AM CDT	Student reports are due 24 hours before their on-line presentation
Wednesday	10-Nov	11	Student Presentations	10-11:20 AM CDT	
Wednesday	17-Nov	--	Travel day	No class	
Wednesday	24-Nov	--	Thanksgiving week	No class	
Wednesday	1-Dec	12	Student Presentations	10-11:20 AM CDT	30 Nov; Student book summaries and personal views report is due
Wednesday	8-Dec	--	Final exam due by e-mail	10-11:20 AM CDT	8-Dec 1 pm CDT; Final exam due

### **Students with Disabilities**

ADA Statement: Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

### **Scholastic Dishonesty**

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standards of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offence and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misinterpreting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such an act. Further information can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

### **Withdrawal from a Course**

The last day to withdraw from a class for any student is the 45th day of class, October 28, 2010. Students will receive an automatic "W," regardless of the current grade in the class. There is no longer a grade of "WF." Students will not be able to drop a class after November 1, 2010 unless they withdraw from the university.

### **Absence for Observance of a Religious Holiday**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holiday shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for the day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student may not be penalized for the absence but the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students are expected to immerse themselves in the history of animal rights and welfare thinking of the past 100 years. Learning outcomes include:

- Develop an understanding of the evolution of thinking about animal welfare in general and specifically farm animal welfare philosophy
- Understand competing and overlapping animal rights views, including views of utilitarianism, animal rights, and religious-based views of farm animals
- Understand current animal rights and animal welfare organizations, their views and their basis in philosophy and logic
- To form personal views of animal rights and animal welfare based on science, philosophy, and ethical principles; and to respect diverse views.

## Animal Rights/Welfare Topics & Reading List

This reading list is intended to bring the reader up to speed on the history, philosophy and current politics of the animal rights movement in the USA. The books are listed in a suggested order of reading, but this order is not required. Upon completing this list of readings, you will see the breadth of criticisms leveled on animal production and processing.

One of the most interesting considerations after reading all of the below books is that people can find ways to criticize the animal industries from within their sphere of comfort. If you are a utilitarian or rights-based philosopher, or if you are politically inclined to the left or right wing, you will find people who argue that the animal industries have problems from within your philosophical or political comfort zone.

*Possible discussion points while reading the books:*

- *Consider philosophical themes concerning the mind/body relationship,*
- *Discuss the ethical basis of interaction between humans and animals.*
- *Animal rights and welfare legislation*
- *Ethics*
- *History*
- *Philosophical writings*
- *Treatment and use of farm animals*
- *Proposition 2 in California banning gestation crates for sows and battery hens for egg production*
- *EU, UK, and Swedish laws about farm animal care*

### **1. The Jungle. Upton Sinclair. 1906. Several publishers including Barnes & Noble Classics and Bantam Books.**

This book is a classic and you may have read it in school years ago. It is well worth reading again. It outlines the state of the meat packing industry at the turn of the last century. It appeals to human emotion when animals are killed.

The story's main character is Jergis Rudkus, an Lithuanian immigrant. He gets a series of jobs in Chicago's Packingtown. You see prejudice, horrible working conditions, inhumane treatment of animals, and unsanitary conditions. Today's plants are much improved in sanitation. The working conditions are better in many ways. The manner in which animals are stunned and bled is similar today although today's plants are much more efficient.

This book is best read shortly before you tour a modern meat packing plant. You will see some similarities and some differences between what Sinclair describes and what you will see today.

**2. Animal Liberation. Peter Singer. 2002 (earlier versions in 1975 and 1990). HarperCollins Publishers, Inc. New York.**

This book has a quote on the cover of the latest version that I believe is correct among activists. “A most important book that will change the way many of us look at animals – and, ultimately at ourselves.” – Chicago Tribune. This will be a very important book for today and in the near future.

Singer is a modern-day philosopher who for many years was at Murdoch University in Melbourne, Australia. He moved to a faculty position at Princeton (NJ) where he remains an activist and philosopher.

Singer outlines his utilitarian view of animal ‘rights’ that he has made famous. His view is most famous for making his case (in one example) as follows. Say a retarded human is less intelligent than a normal chimp. On which species would you rather conduct research? Singer argues from a moral point of view that the normal chimp has more ‘value’ than the retarded human and thus you should chose the retarded human. If you chose the retarded human and this seems wrong to you, then of course you would not use the chimp. And the chimp is like a pig and a dog and a rat and so on. Therefore, you should not do research on any animal, especially vertebrates.

Singer takes on farm animals and other animal uses. He advocates being an ethical vegetarian and he uses pictures that are meant to inspire vegetarianism. His views are not totally agreed-upon by philosophers, but they are widely held by activists.

This book will get you started with some history, philosophy and apparent logic. It will set the framework for other readings.

**3. Ethics into Action: Henry Spira and the Animal Rights Movement. Peter Singer. 1998. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.**

This book is required reading for understanding of the modern-day history of the animal rights activist movement. It chronicles the life of Henry Spira as he moves from being a merchant marine to a union activist to meeting Singer in NYC and to his beginning in the animal rights movement. It also gives a history of Henry’s interactions with companies like McDonald’s. It outlines the effective strategy used by Henry to force change by pressuring the retail industry. The objective of the book is to offer a formula for other activists to be as successful as Henry was (and he certainly was successful). Henry believed that the most suffering in the world was among the billions of farmed animals (more so than research or testing).

Some things that are not spelled out in the book are the relationship between Henry Spira and PETA and Henry's failures to impact agriculture directly. Henry set up a group called Animal Rights International. This group developed strategies, raised money and conducted (and conducts) campaigns. They were not working with PETA (in my view) because Henry did not like PETA's acceptance of violence by the Animal Liberation Front. Thus, Henry suppressed PETA. When Henry died in 1998, it freed PETA to be more active and indeed to use his techniques.

Henry made some attempts to impact animal agriculture directly. He pressured agribusiness, had some minor successes, but generally did not cause change. His strategy was to move to the retail end of the production chain where he would be more effective.

#### **4. Dominion. 2002. Matthew Scully. St. Marin's Press. NY.**

Just in case you thought animal rights was a liberal left issue, Scully writes an animal welfare/rights perspective from the far right. He was an active member of the Bush Administration as a senior speech writer for President George W. Bush.

Scully takes a predominantly Biblical view of how animals should be treated. He suggests animal suffer in a number of human-dominated situations including on commercial farms. He suggests there is something 'horribly wrong' with human dominion over animals. He is particularly hard on the commercial swine industry. He reports conversations with a NC corporate hog farm (now owned by Smithfield) in an unflattering light.

This book made a moderately big splash when it was first released. It has not gotten much legs lately. However, it represents a very different point of view but with the same conclusions as Singer and Regan. Scully's web page has links to groups like Farm Sanctuary which works closely with PETA on farm animal issues.

#### **5. Slaughterhouse: The shocking story of greed, neglect, and inhumane treatment inside the U.S. Meat Industry 1997. Gail Eisnitz. Prometheus Books. Amerherst, NY.**

This book is written as an investigative reporter look at the modern-day meat packing industry. It emulated 'The Jungle' but with a modern and journalistic approach. It has not had the impact of 'The Jungle'.

This book is full of exaggerations, sensationalism and sideline issues such as food safety and environmental pollution. It paints an entirely negative image of situations that are described. The sub-title is an abstract of the book's contents.

Eisnitz's book has been touted as required reading by animal rights organizations. It is often quoted in documents and campaigns to inhibit or regulate the meat packing industries.

**6. The Omnivore's Dilemma. Michael Pollan. 2006. Penguin Press HC.**

This book is not meant to be about animal rights or animal welfare, but the topic comes up. The Pollan examines where food comes from. There is a particular focus on corn and secondarily on animals and meat. Animal welfare is discussed from a naturalistic perspective.

This book is the best selling in modern times among the books we will read (probably the *Jungle* has sold more copies, but it is a classic and over 100 years old). Pollan's books have caused considerable discussion about where our food comes from and what is best for our health and the health of the planet.

We must consider that a best-selling book that has a small amount of animal rights/welfare discussion will touch more people than a book dedicated to the topic, but with a small audience.

**Other Relevant Readings: Students are to pick one of the below to read and report on to the class in seminar format. Some books are out of print and so they must be ordered with some lead-time if you want to use them as your choice. Some of them are rare books and may be costly. Others have been re-printed and are less expensive.**

**Optional Readings**

**1. The Expression of the Emotions of Man and Animals – Charles Darwin. 1872.**

Charles Darwin is most well-known for his book *On the Origin of Species* in which the theory of evolution is laid-out. But this book on, basically, the evolution of emotions in man and animals suggested that animals have emotions and that human emotions have evolved from animal emotions. He even mentions farm animals.

**2. The Case for Animal Rights. Tom Regan. 1983. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA.**

This book was written as a philosophical argument with a lay-person's writing style. The most interesting aspect of this book is that Regan strongly disagrees with Singer's logic. He argues not only is Singer wrong, but his method of analysis gives animals rights in a more definitive way.

Regan argues that animals have interests and moral claims and that they should be considered persons. If animals are not different from humans in meaningful ways, then he argues, animals should be given many of the rights we give humans, most

notably the right to life. This would mean that animals could not be used for research or for food.

Regan's 'rights' view is different than Singer's 'utilitarian' view. Singer would say: do the most good. Regan would say that is fine, but you have to respect the rights of individuals along the way.

PETA adopted the Regan view of animal rights through the 1980s and 1990s. Today they use both views because Peter Singer is now on faculty at Princeton (NJ) and Regan is retired from the faculty at NC State University.

**3. The Well-Being of Farm Animals. 2004. G. John Benson and B. E. Rollin. Blackwell Publishing. Oxford, UK.**

This book is a compilation of chapters by leading authors. It is organized in two sections: Theoretical Framework and Practical Applications.

In the theoretical framework section, the chapters represent some of the views held by authors in the field. Important questions are addressed in a partisan way including human-animal interactions, pain, the concept of welfare based on feelings, and animal handling/transportation principles. It is important for the reader to understand that these are not the only views on the topics, but these certainly are very common views in this part of the scientific community.

The major farm animal species each have a chapter that gives issues thought to be important by each chapter's author. Granted each chapter's author is an authority in the field. But most chapters are not intended to be a complete literature review on the topics at hand – and they vary greatly. The beef and poultry chapters are much more heavily referenced than the swine or sheep chapters, for example. However, there is an obvious lack of attention to some scientific literature in some chapters and so the 'practical applications' section should be viewed more as highlights of areas of concern by these scientists.

**4. Animals Make Us Human. Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. 2009. Mariner Books. New York.**

This book blends Temple Grandin's personal views of animal behavior with her views about how we should care for them. Temple Grandin is a modern day person that designs livestock facilities and trains people in livestock handling. She is also very active in autism. She is autistic and brings a unique perspective to farm animal care. She has had considerable impact on modern animal agriculture related to animal welfare. Her other books are also best sellers.

**5. Animal suffering: The Science of Animal Welfare – Marian Stamp Dawkins. 1980.**

This book offers a scientific view of animal suffering and animal welfare. The focus is on how animals “feel” rather than their physiology, although both are discussed. In 1980 there had been few studies whose objective was to assess animal welfare and so this book is an early attempt to form a new science. By now, there are many thousands of papers and so modern books on animal welfare science are plentiful. None is considered the standard; which indicates it is a relatively young field.

**6. Physiology and Behaviour of Animal Suffering – Neville Gregory. 2004.  
UFAW Animal Welfare**

This book is a more modern attempt to summarize the science of animal welfare with a focus on physiology and behavior. It lists many farm animal welfare concerns and reviews the literature on these areas of concern. This book would drill down in medium depth on the science of animal welfare; others are more superficial. And to really understand a given farm animal welfare topic, much more may be written, hypothesized and studied than could be in a single volume.

**7. Animal Machines: The new factory farming industry – Ruth Harrison.  
1966.**

This book was a classic in British literature. It led to the development of laws in the UK to ban certain housing systems. It is currently out of print, but you may be able to find a copy on line. It “exposed” the confinement housing of pigs and poultry and veal calves and set into motion the modern-day animal welfare movement, many people say.