

TTU HUMANITIES CENTER PRESENTS A

# FACULTY FELLOWS TALK

WITH DR. PAMELA ZINN

## "LUCRETIUS ON ANIMALS: A TALK ON THINKING ABOUT ANIMALS AND THINKING WITH ANIMALS - IN ANCIENT ROME AND TODAY"

Lucretius' *De rerum natura* is one of the most complex and influential works to survive from ancient Rome — encompassing within its six books an explanation of the workings of the entire universe according to ancient atomic physics and Epicurean philosophy, presented and distilled through the medium of Latin epic poetry. In it, Lucretius addresses questions which continue to fascinate us to this day: Are there fundamental differences between humans and animals? Can animals think, feel, and reason as we do, or do they act through instinct alone? What are life and these abilities, really, and how do such things work beneath the surface? Which properties are we born with and which develop? Do species evolve? What sort of treatment do we owe animals and do they have anything to teach us? In this talk, we will explore Lucretius' answers to some of these questions, and think together about Lucretius' pivotal place in the history of ideas about animals and, by extension, about what it means to be human.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28  
12 PM

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