



01:470:242
Index: 39306
Cross listed with 01:195:398-02
MW5 2:50-4:10pm
Scott Hall 120

Prof. Nicola Behrmann
172 College Avenue, Room 302
Phone: 732-932-7201
E-mail: behrmann@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Mo 2-3pm

ANIMAL SPIRITS

INTRO TO GERMAN LITERATURE

Fall 2013
(3 credits)

This course serves as an introduction to pertinent works of the German literary and visual tradition by investigating the depiction of animals in relation to the human: How do writers and artists explore the demarcation between the human and the animal, how do they challenge the denigration of the animal in Western philosophy? What defines an animal? Can the animal speak, can it suffer, can it be understood? What does it mean to be looked at by an animal? What happens when we love a pet? In what way does the animal challenge our thinking of ethics, gender, and identity? We will trace the paths of wolves, horses, cats, dogs, mice, rats, and snakes who destabilize and reconfigure literary texts, theories of knowledge, Western anthropocentrism and biopolitics.

Readings include Tieck's *Blond Eckbert*, selected fairy tales of the Grimm brothers', Hoffmann's *Tomcat Murr*, Rilke's *Duino Elegies*, Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Wedekind's *Lulu*, and Brecht's *Baal*. These texts will be accompanied by visual examples such as Dürer's etching *Melencolia I*, Seidel's film *Animal Love* and Herzog's documentary *Grizzly Man*, Walt Disney's *Mickey Mouse*, and theoretical reflections on the status of the animal including Agamben, Benjamin, Cixous, Deleuze/Guattari, Derrida, Freud, Haraway, Heidegger, Kofman, and Nietzsche.

Taught in English.

Prerequisites: None.

Final Grade

3 Response papers (3-5 pages each)	60%
Presentation (15 min)	15%
Final Paper (8 pages)	25%

Grade distribution

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

Required Texts, available at Rutgers Bookstore

- E.T.A. Hoffmann, *The Life and Opinions of the Tomcat Murr*, Penguin Classics, 1999 [ISBN-10: 0140446311 ISBN-13: 978-0140446319]
- Frank Wedekind, *The First Lulu*, Applause Books, 2000 [ISBN-10: 1557831734 ISBN-13: 978-1557831736]

All other texts will be available on Sakai and must be printed and brought to class.

Departmental policies

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Photocopies

Department photocopying fees add up quickly and impressively; we will therefore need to collect from each student 5 cents per page toward the cost of handouts other than quizzes and tests.

Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

- Wed 9/4 **Introduction**
- Mon 9/9 **Anti/Human:** Uexküll, *A Foray Into the Worlds of Animals and Humans* (pp. 39-77); Agamben, *The Open* (chaps. 11: *Umwelt* and 12: *Tick*, pp. 39-48).
Recommended: Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"
- Wed 9/11 **Animal's Gaze (Cats):** Rilke, "8th Duino Elegy", "Black Cat", and "The Panther"; Derrida, "The Animal That Therefore I am"
- Mon 9/16 **Melancholia (Dogs):** Dürer, *Melencolia I* (1514) and *Knight, Death, and the Devil* (1513); Benjamin, *The Origin of the German Tragic Drama* (1928) (excerpt pp. 148-155)
- Wed 9/18 **Forgetting:** Tieck, *Eckbert the Fair* (1797):
http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Eckbert_the_Blond; Mathäs, "From Self-Perfection to Self-Delusion"
- Mon 9/23 Tieck, *Eckbert* continued; Nietzsche, "On the Use and Abuse of History for Life" (1874)
- Wed 9/25 **RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE**
Sacrifice (Horses): Kleist, "Michael Kohlhaas" (1811); Larubia-Prado: "Horses at the Frontier in Kleist's *Michael Kohlhaas*"
- Mon 9/30 Kleist, *Kohlhaas* continued.
- Wed 10/2 **Becoming Human:** E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Murr the Tomcat* (Lebensansichten des Katers Murr, 1819-21) (Part I); Derrida, "The Animal That Therefore I am". Recommended: Kofman, *Autogriffures*
- Mon 10/7 Hoffmann, *Murr* (Part II)
- Wed 10/9 Hoffmann, *Murr* (Part III)
- Mon 10/14 **Becoming Animal:** Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (*Die Verwandlung*, 1915); Deleuze/Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus* (Chap. "1730: Becoming-Intense, Becoming-Animal, Becoming- Imperceptible...")
- Wed 10/16 Kafka/Deleuze, continued.

- Mon 10/21 **Sovereign vs. Beast (Wolves):** Freud, *From the History of an Infantile Neurosis ("The Wolf Man")* (1918); Deleuze, *A Thousand Plateaus* (Chap. "1914: One or Several Wolves?"). Recommended: Freud/Gardiner, *The Wolf Man By The Wolf Man* (1971)
- Wed 10/23 *Wolf Man*, continued; Abrahams/Torok, *The Wolf Man's Magic Word* (chap. 3); Derrida: "Fors"
- Mon 10/28 Grimm Brothers, *Little Red Riding Hood* (Rotkäppchen); Cixous, "Love of the Wolf"
- Wed 10/30 **RESPONSE PAPER #2 DUE**
Animal Woman (Snakes): Wedekind, *Lulu* (1895); Jennifer Ham: "Taming the Beast: Animality in Nietzsche and Wedekind"
- Mon 11/4 Wedekind, *Lulu* continued; Heym: "Ophelia" (1910)
- Wed 11/6 **Abjection (Rats):** Benn, "Beautiful Youth" (1912); Kristeva, *Powers of Horror* (Chap. 1: Approaching Abjection); Grimm Brothers, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* (Der Rattenfänger von Hameln); Recommended: Serres, *The Parasite* (chap. "Rats' Dinner" and "More Rats' Meals", pp. 51-73)
- Mon 11/11 **Political Animals:** Brecht, "Oh Fallada, There Thou Are Hanging" (Ein Pferd klagt an, 1932) and *Baal* (1918/1923)
- Wed 11/13 Brecht, *Baal*, continued.
- Mon 11/18 **Poverty (Mice):** Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics* (excerpts on the animal as being 'poor in world'); Agamben, *The Open* (chap. 12: Poverty in World)
- Wed 11/20 Kafka, "Josephine, the Mouse Singer" (Josefine, die Sängerin oder Das Volk der Mäuse, 1924)
- Mon 11/25 Benjamin, "Mickey Mouse" (1931); "Experience and Poverty" (Erfahrung und Armut, 1933)
- Wed 11/27 *no class.* **RESPONSE PAPER #3 DUE**
- Mon 12/2 **Pet Love I:** Ulrich Seidl, *Animal Love* (Tierische Liebe, 1995)
Haraway, *When Species Meet*
- Wed 12/4 **Pet Love II:** Werner Herzog, *Grizzly Man* (2005); Haraway, continued.

Mon 12/11 TERM PAPER WORKSHOP

Fri 12/13 **FINAL PAPER DUE**