Bemidji State University

PSY 4340: Humans and Other Animals

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course provides an examination of the various ways humans interact with other animals. Although the focus is psychological aspects of human-animal interaction, the field is multidisciplinary and thus students will learn about the topic from other perspectives. Topics include the human-animal bond and pet ownership; animal-assisted interventions; animal use, abuse, and neglect; and animals in research. Cultural factors are emphasized throughout the course, as well as the ways in which oppression of humans and oppression of other animals overlap or intersect. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior status, or consent of instructor

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/31/2023 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to Human-Animal Studies
2. Human-Animal Borders
3. History of Interaction with Wild Animals & Domestication
4. Cultural Factors in Human-Animal Interaction
5. Overlapping Oppression of Humans and Animals
6. Animals in Entertainment
7. Animals as Food
8. Psychology of Keeping Pets
9. Animals in Science
10. Animal-Assisted Intervention
11. Animal Rescuing and Sheltering
12. Violence, Abuse, and Neglect of Animals
13. Animals in Religion/Spirituality, Literature and Film
15. Animal Emotion and Intelligence

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. discuss a broad array of topics on human-animal interaction, incorporating multiple perspectives (e.g., psychological, biological, historical, sociological).
2. read and evaluate primary sources and empirical research articles in human-animal studies.
3. apply psychological theories and concepts to explain and understand human-animal phenomena.
4. discuss and write about a topic critically, integrating and critiquing psychological literature.
5. communicate effectively in an academic or applied setting.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted