

The Nature of the Beast:

Animals in British Literature, 1789-Present



English 262, Section 2
MWF 1:30-2:20 PM
112 Armstrong Hall



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Office Hours: MT 2:30-4:00 + by appointment

I will also be in the English Advising Office (118 Colson, phone [304] 293-9740) at the following times: MW 9:00-10:15 AM, F 9:00-10:30 AM. Please be aware that my advisees will take precedence during these hours.

Texts (available at Mountainlair Bookstore and Book Exchange unless otherwise noted)

- William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (Dover)
- Lewis Carroll and Martin Gardner, *The Annotated Alice* (Norton)
- J.M. Coetzee, *Elizabeth Costello* (Penguin)
- Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Books* (Oxford)
- George Orwell, *Animal Farm*, ed. Ann Patchett (Plume)
- Other readings will be distributed in class. You may also download them from <http://ereserves.lib.wvu.edu> (for “Professor’s Username” enter **komisaruk**; for “Professor’s Password” enter **81**).

Recommended Preparation

- English 101 or the equivalent
- English 102 or the equivalent
- English 261 or the equivalent

Although these courses are not prerequisites, the more of them you have taken, the better you stand to do in English 262. I would strongly dissuade you from taking this course unless you have completed, or are currently completing, two semesters of college-level composition.

Requirements

- Attendance at all class sessions, with readings completed. You may miss three (3) sessions without penalty; thereafter, for each unexcused absence I will deduct 2% of your course grade. Please do not ask me to review material covered in your absence; consult a classmate for missed notes and assignments.

- Two (2) analytical essays on course material, approx. 5 pp. each. I will distribute topics a week or so in advance. Research is not required for these papers and, in fact, is discouraged. You must, however, document all primary and secondary sources you do use; consult a current style manual for formats. Each paper approx. 15% of course grade. You may revise one (1) of your papers for extra credit.
- Midterm exam; in-class, objective (i.e., no essay questions). Approx. 15% of course grade.
- Final exam; objective and essay questions. Approx. 25% of course grade.
- Short quizzes, daily with exceptions, on lectures and readings. Missed quizzes cannot be made up and will count as a “zero” in the event of an unexcused absence. Collectively, approx. 15% of course grade.
- Oral presentation, about 10 minutes, on one of the readings for the course. I will distribute a signup sheet shortly after the semester begins. Approaches might include delineating a theme, doing a character-sketch, explicating a passage, providing outside information about the author or text, relating the assigned text to an unassigned one, etc., etc. If you have interests in other fields, I encourage you to make use of them here. You will also be expected to field questions. Your oral-presentation grade will help determine your class-participation grade (see below).
- While I welcome your remarks every day of the course, I will designate roughly one day per week as a “discussion session”, which I will devote to some activity other than lecture—group work, a student report, directed question-and-answer, etc. Your in-class work, along with your overall attitude, etc. will constitute approx. 15% of your course grade.

Statement on Plagiarism

You are required to submit only original work for this course. You must document all borrowings from others’ words or ideas, in a format approved by the *MLA Handbook* or other style manual. Failure to do so—regardless of intent or motive—constitutes plagiarism, a serious offense punishable by expulsion from the university. Consult the *WVU Undergraduate Catalog* for a full definition of plagiarism.

WVU Statement on Social Justice

“West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).”

—Approved by WVU Faculty Senate, 8 June 1992

<http://www.wvu.edu/~socjust/syllabus_statement.htm>

Schedule of Assignments (* denotes Xeroxed handout)

Week	Day	Date	Assignment Due
1	M	8/18	Introduction
1	W	8/20	Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
1	F	8/22	Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
2	M	8/25	Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
2	W	8/27	Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
2	F	8/29	Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
3	M	9/1	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY RECESS
3	W	9/3	Wollstonecraft, from <i>Original Stories</i> *
3	F	9/5	Wollstonecraft, from <i>Original Stories</i> *
4	M	9/8	Wollstonecraft, from <i>Original Stories</i> *
4	W	9/10	Wollstonecraft, from <i>Original Stories</i> *
4	F	9/12	Shelley, essays on vegetarianism*
5	M	9/15	Shelley, essays on vegetarianism*
5	T	9/16	PAPER #1 DUE 4 PM
5	W	9/17	Shelley, essays on vegetarianism*
5	F	9/19	Shelley, essays on vegetarianism*
6	M	9/22	Darwin, from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> *
6	W	9/24	Darwin, from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> *
6	F	9/26	Darwin, from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> *
7	M	9/29	Darwin, from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> *
7	W	10/1	Review, etc.
7	F	10/3	MIDTERM EXAM
8	M	10/6	Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
8	W	10/8	Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
8	F	10/10	Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
9	M	10/13	Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
9	W	10/15	Kipling, <i>The Jungle Books</i>
9	F	10/17	Kipling, <i>The Jungle Books</i>
10	M	10/20	Kipling, <i>The Jungle Books</i>
10	W	10/22	Kipling, <i>The Jungle Books</i>
10	F	10/24	Kipling, <i>The Jungle Books</i>
11	M	10/27	Lawrence, tortoise poems*
11	W	10/29	Lawrence, tortoise poems*
11	F	10/31	Lawrence, tortoise poems*
12	M	11/3	Lawrence, tortoise poems*
12	T	11/4	PAPER #2 DUE 4 PM

12	W	11/5	Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>
12	F	11/7	Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>
13	M	11/10	Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>
13	W	11/12	Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>
13	F	11/14	Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i>
14	M	11/17	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>
14	W	11/19	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>
14	F	11/21	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>
	M	11/24	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS
	W	11/26	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS
	F	11/28	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING RECESS
15	M	12/1	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>
15	W	12/3	Coetzee, <i>Elizabeth Costello</i>
15	F	12/5	Review, etc.
	M	12/8	FINAL EXAM 3-5 PM