The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
RELS 5331 Special Topic in Religious Studies:  
Religion and Animal

Lecturer: Prof. Keith CHAN Ka-fu  
Email: keithchan2010@gmail.com  
Venue: ELB 207  
Date & Time: Fri 18:45-21:30

I. Aims and Objectives  
Is it true that different religious traditions benefit animals? Are religious people and religious institutions more or less likely to be respectful to animals – either those kept as companions or those used for other human purposes? This course is mainly designed to explore the role and status of animals of different religious traditions, in which the positive and negative resources will be addressed in order to equip students to understand the influence of religious traditions towards human attitude on animals. Moreover, the course will introduce the contemporary discussion towards animals rights and animal welfare movement in order to have dialogue between ethical and religious perspectives towards the human-animals relationship.

II. Intended learning outcomes (CILOS)  
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate what are the perspectives of different religious traditions towards human-animal relationship;  
2. Evaluate critically the positive and negative perspectives of different religious traditions towards animals;  
3. Able to have dialogue between religious perspectives and ethical approaches towards the welfare of animals.  
4. Evaluate critically various current issues related to the survival and welfare of animals in our contemporary world in general and in Hong Kong.

III. Assessment methods and criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>CILOs to be addressed</th>
<th>Description of Assessment Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Project and Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
<td>To assess how well students have read selected readings, identified a specific issue and present their ideas and viewpoints in the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>To check if students are able to understand and analyze the texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>The research paper aims to assess major learning outcomes achieved by students upon the completion of the course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Group Project and Presentation (30%)**
   - Students in a group are required to have an oral presentation in English / Chinese with power-point provided.
   - High marks would be given if, 1. The reading materials are clearly and systemically understood and presented; 2. Critical comments are provided; 3. Some further questions are provided for the further investigation of the topic.
   - The oral presentation performance would count 15% of 30%. After the presentation, each group should submit a well-written essay, based on the material in oral presentation and not less than 1000 words, at the last class of the term. The written essay would count 15% of 30%.

2. **Reflection paper (25%)**
   - Each student is required to submit a reflection paper on one particular area which is NOT his tutorial area.
   - The requirement of this reflection paper is to summarize the content with clear structure, and provides some reflections, comments and critical remarks.
   - The word count is no less than 1500 words.
   - The deadline of submission would be announced later.

3. **Research Paper (45%)**
   - Each student is required to submit a research paper in English / Chinese with clear argumentative thesis, well-structure organization and strong arguments. Footnotes and reference should be provided. Word count is no less than 3000 words.

IV. **Course Outline**
1. Course Introduction and Animals as the Question
2. Mapping the Discourses of Animal Ethics and Animality
   2.1. Anglo-American Perspectives: Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Martha Nussbaum
   2.2. Feminist Approaches
   2.3. Continental Perspectives: Heidegger, Derrida, Levinas, Agamben
3. Animal Theology in Judaism and Christianity
   3.1. Biblical Views of Animals
   3.2. Negative Traditions of Christian Theology
   3.3. Current Approaches of Animal Theology
      i. Andrew Linzey
      ii. Daniel K. Miller
      iii. Stephen H. Webb
4. Buddhist Perspectives on Animal Ethics and Animality
5. Daoist Perspectives on Animal Ethics and Animality
6. Confucian Animal Ethics
7. Islamic Tradition on Animals

V. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>1. Course Introduction and Animals as the Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>2. Mapping the Discourses of Animal Ethics and Animality (1): Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Martha Nussbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Readings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armstrong &amp; Botzler. Eds.2017: 15-21, 32-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nussbaum &amp; Sunstein. Eds. 2004: 299-320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Readings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donovan, Josephina &amp; Adams, Carol J. 2007. 174-228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Readings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calarco 2008: Ch.1,3 &amp; 4 (The Texts provided )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>5. Mapping the Discourses of Animal Ethics and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animality (4): Agamben
Basic Readings:
Calarco 2008: Ch.1,3 & 4 (The Texts provided)

Oct 11
6. Animal Theology in Judaism and Christianity:
   Biblical Views of Animals
   Basic Readings:
   Bauckham 2011: Ch 1-4 (The Texts provided)

Oct 18
7. Animal Theology in Judaism and Christianity:
   Negative Traditions of Christian Theology
   Basic Readings:
   McLaughlin 2014: 8-20 (The Texts provided)

Oct 25
NO CLASS

Nov 1
8. Animal Theology in Judaism and Christianity:
   Andrew Linzey
   Basic Readings:
   Linzey 1994: 3-25

Nov 8
9. Animal Theology in Judaism and Christianity:
   Daniel K Miller & Stephen H Webb
   Basic Readings:

Nov 15
10. Buddhist Perspectives on Animal Ethics and Animality

Nov 22
11. Daoist Perspectives on Animal Ethics and Animality

Nov 29
12. Confucian Animal Ethics

Making-up
13. Islamic Tradition on Animals

VI. Tutorial Arrangement (All the reading materials would be provided by the instructor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Reading Materials</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>No Tutorial</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| September 20   | Is there any animal rights? Regan-Cohn Debate
| September 27   | Feminist Care Theory
|                | Readings: Josephine Donovan’s article                           |
| Oct 4          | Facing the Animal Other: Levinas and Derrida
<p>|                | Readings: The Paradox of Morality, pp.168-180                   |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Metaphysical Anthropocentrism and its Deconstruction: Heidegger and Agamben</td>
<td>Readings: Calarco 2008: Ch.1 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Linzey’s Animal Theology</td>
<td>Readings: Linzey 1994: 3-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>No Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Reference:

A. Basic Introduction and Good Collections on Different Religious Attitudes towards Animal and related issues


B. Jewish-Christian Traditions

C. Buddhism


11. 曹文斌: 《西方動物解放論與中國佛教護生觀比較研究》 (北京:人民出版社, 2010)

D. Daoism


E. Confucianism

F. Islamic Tradition


G. Basic References on Animal Ethics and Animality