

Animal Studies Minor

Director: McRobert (Biology)

Animal Studies Advisory Board: Becker (Psychology), Goldthwaite (English), McDonald (Philosophy), Nelson (Biology), Rathore (Research Services)

Program Overview

Animal Studies is an interdisciplinary field that aims not only to investigate animals themselves, but also the relationship between human and non-human animals. Animal Studies brings together scholarship from the social and natural sciences, as well as the humanities. The Animal Studies minor exposes students to courses focusing on human and animal relations and interactions, animal biology/physiology, animal behavior and cognition, and the role played by non-human animals in the larger world around them. The selection of courses is designed to yield a greater knowledge of and appreciation for animals and our relationship with them.

Goals and Objectives of the Animal Studies Minor

- Students will develop a greater understanding of human-animal interactions and relationships
- Students will develop a greater understanding of animal biology/physiology, behavior and cognition
- Students will develop a greater understanding of the role played by non-human animals in the larger world around them
- Students will be exposed to ethical issues surrounding human-animal relationships

The Minor

All students seeking to minor in Animal Studies will take the following courses:

1. **PSY 208 Human-Animal Relations** (PSY 100 or PSY 101 is prerequisite)

2. An understanding of how human and non-human animals relate and interact requires understanding form and function of the organisms, so all students seeking to minor in Animal Studies will complete **one of the following courses:** BIO 260 Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 101 or BIO 165 are prerequisites), or BIO 406 Comparative Anatomy, or BIO 417 Systemic Physiology (These courses all have prerequisites).

3. A background in animal behavior and its underpinnings is helpful when considering the interactions and relationships between human and non-human animals. All students seeking to minor in Animal Studies must take **one of the following courses:** BIO 401 Animal Behavior, or PSY 201 Biological Bases of Behavior, or PSY 225 Comparative Animal Behavior (These courses all have prerequisites).

4. Students will take three additional elective courses to complete the Animal Studies minor (Note: many of these have prerequisites and/or co-requisites); **at least one of these courses must be from a department other than Psychology or Biology.** Students may choose from among the following, which are included in order to provide additional knowledge of human and non-human animal relations and interactions, animal biology/physiology, animal behavior and cognition, and the role of non-human animals in the larger world around them:

--- --- Independent Study*
 --- --- Independent Research*
 --- --- Internship*
 BIO 261 Anatomy and Physiology II
 BIO 407 Developmental Biology
 BIO 409 Ecology
 BIO 419 Invertebrate Zoology
 BIO 423 Evolution
 CLA 201 Classical Mythology
 ENG 150 Nature in America**
 ENG 426 Nature Writing in America

ENG 452 Writing and Reading Animals
 ENV 105 The Environment
 ENV 106 Exploring the Earth
 HIS 386 American Environmental History
 PHL 282 People, Animals, and Ethics
 PHL 316 Food and Justice
 PHL 328 Philosophy and Evolution: Consciousness and the Human-Animal Connection
 POL 327 Environmental Politics in America
 PSY 201 Biological Bases of Behavior***
 PSY 221 Animal Learning and Memory

* With permission of the Animal Studies Director, students can count one semester of an appropriate independent study, research, or internship toward the minor (in category 4).

** This course is a freshman seminar

*** PSY 201 may be used as an elective or to satisfy requirement 3 above, but it may not be used in both categories.

At least half (three) of the courses counting toward the minor must come from outside the student's major department.