

Univ 6030 Selected Topics in Animal Welfare

(This 0.5 credit course is spread over 2 semesters)

Course Description

This seminar-based course offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of broad topics in animal welfare and human-animal relationships. Selected topics will derive from various disciplines, such as animal science, philosophy, history, psychology, ethics and biology. Students will be required to attend six seminars, open to the university community (advertised through the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, CCSAW). This seminar-based course will allow students the opportunity to interact with researchers who work either directly or indirectly on animal welfare issues.

Objectives

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of animal welfare science and the ability to critically evaluate research
- Develop an ability to think laterally about welfare issues and research-based welfare assessment

Instructor

Dr. Alexandra Harlander, ANNU 247, aharland@uoguelph.ca

Meetings

Seminars: 12:30-1:30pm (Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College)

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Thursday, November 25, 2016

Thursday, January 26, 2017

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Thursday, March 30, 2017.

Meet & Greet with the speaker: 1:30 pm-2:30 pm (coffee & cookies) ANNU 230

Prep time on your own: 2:00 pm-2:30 pm

Group discussion and meeting with the speaker: 2:30pm-4:20pm ANNU 241

Labs

Thursday's, 2:30-4:20pm (ANNU, Room 241)

One week before seminars (this means first Lab September 22, 2016) are held students are encouraged to think about the seminar, read the papers and prepare questions and comments. In small groups, students will discuss several questions related to the upcoming seminar talk. This will be done via Gallery Walks in an oral and written presentation completed in the lab.

Format, required work, and assessment

Seminar: Students will be required to attend 6 research seminars over 2 semesters. 5% of your mark will come from contributing to the discussion within the question period of the public seminar.

Class meeting: After the public seminar we will meet the speaker (2:30pm-4:20pm ANNU 241) to discuss materials directly and/or indirectly related to the speaker's talk.

General discussion rules:

Everyone should listen respectfully to one another (even if they disagree). The person who is speaking should not be interrupted. No more than one person should speak at a time. No one's ideas should be made fun of. If you disagree with someone, disagree with their ideas and behave professionally. Try to understand others as much as you hope they try to understand you.

Prior to the seminar, each student is required to read 3 research papers and contribute to the oral discussion within the group. In order to create some discussion structure, roles will be pre-assigned as follows:

Facilitator: Should encourage group members to respond/speak to/with each other by asking questions like: What does everyone else think? Is there anyone else who agrees/disagrees?

Hypothesis person: What did you like/dislike about the way the researcher chose their research question/hypothesis? Which reasons did he/she give, the reasons he/she did not give, but you thought of anyway? Was the hypothesis clear?

Method person: What did you like/dislike about the experimental design? Choice of subjects? Statistical approach? Was a control group used? Did this control group control for something else? Was this an observational or an experimental study? What was the basic experimental design? E.g. one-factor, two-factor, repeated measurements? What was the sample size/experimental unit? What was the behavioural sampling method? Did the experimental design and data collection method allow testing of the hypotheses? Were the objectives of the study met? What was the weakness of the experimental design? How would you like to improve the experimental design or the data collection method?

Keep in mind – No study is perfect!

Findings person: What are the results of the study? What questions was the investigator answering by this study/by these results? Do the findings have implications for animal welfare? What was the welfare of the research animals themselves? What do the results mean for other species or situations? Did the findings flag welfare issues that you hadn't thought of before?

Knowledge Transfer person: Could the methods used help future investigations of animal welfare issues? How can policy makers, equipment suppliers, etc. use the results to improve animal welfare? How will society/animal rights activists/policy maker/farmers react to these results?

I encourage you to think laterally and be imaginative! Create your own experiments in your mind! Compare the speaker's papers with papers from someone else working on the same topic.

Written Work – 2 papers, 2 presentations (Powerpoint or video)

Based on the seminars, students will write 2 papers and make 2 presentations according to pre-approved topics. Presentations and papers cannot be on the same topic.

Your paper/presentation topic could be a review of the speakers published work, but it does not have to be. I would encourage you to think laterally, be inspired by the seminar and discover a topic of your choice or a topic related to your own research. You will write a 4000 word (max) fully referenced paper. Your PowerPoint presentations should be 15 minutes in length (videos about 5 min). I am giving you a lot of freedom here, but I am happy to give advice at any stage in the planning/writing of your paper.

Two of the 4 assignments are due in December and the remaining 2 are due in April. The papers contribute to 30 % and the presentations contribute to 20% of your mark (**50% total**).

For example:

Seminar: "Evidence of adaptive design in depression".

You are working in “welfare research”:

e.g. Topic of one of your papers/presentations: If animals are depressed, what could it mean for their welfare?

Seminar: "Evidence of adaptive design in depression".

You are working in “neurotransmitter research”.

e.g. Topic of one of your papers/presentations: Nutritional effects on serotonin and how this may affect abnormal behaviour in farm animals (dogs)?

Marking summary:

Contribution to discussion in public seminar	5%
Oral and written presentation before the seminar (labs)	20%
Oral discussions with the speaker	25%
2 papers	30%
2 presentations	20%

Class Schedule

Date and time	Location	Class Type	Seminar details
Sept 22, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Introductory meeting to discuss the organization and topic of the upcoming seminar discussion
Sept 29, 12:30- 1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	Dr. A. Tucker “Preparing for Change: New Approaches for Addressing Tomorrow’s Challenges in Animal Welfare“ UoGuelph
Sept 29, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
Oct 20, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Class meeting to discuss the topic and organization of the upcoming seminar discussion
Oct 27, 12:30- 1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	Prof Renee Bergeron" The natural way to feed cows: pasturing, feeding preferences, grazing behaviour" UoGuelph
Oct 27, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
Nov 17, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Class meeting to discuss the topic and organization of the upcoming seminar discussion
Nov 24, 12:30- 1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	Dr. Claire Weeks „Title: N/A“ Topic: Laying hen welfare- consumer perspective“ UoBristol
Nov 24, 2:30- 4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
Dec 3 & 10,	ANNU 241	Presentations	Oral presentations and

2:30-4:20pm			hand in papers
Jan 19, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Class meeting to discuss the topic organization of the upcoming seminar discussion
Jan 26, 12:30-1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	N/A
Jan 26, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
Feb 16, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Class meeting to discuss the topic and organization of the upcoming seminar discussion
Feb 23, 12:30-1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	“Title N/A“ Dr. Marcus Litman University of Guelph, Animal Care
Feb 23, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
March 23, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Meeting	Class meeting to discuss the topic and organization of the upcoming seminar discussion
March 30, 12:30-1:30pm	Room 1800, Pathobiology/AHL, Ontario Veterinary College	Seminar	“N/A”
March 30, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Discussion	Class meeting to discuss seminar with the speaker
April 6 or 13, 2:30-4:20pm	ANNU 241	Presentations	Oral presentations and hand in papers

Standard Statements – Graduate Course Outlines UNIV 6030

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the graduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1400.shtml

Drop Date

Two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/sched/sched-dates-f10.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1687.shtml

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to graduate programs:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/>