

Animal Ethics

Start date	13 April 2019	End date	13 April 2019
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Silvia Panizza	Course code	1819NDX035

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Silvia Panizza is Ethics Lecturer at the University of East Anglia, Norwich Medical School, and Lecturer in Philosophy at John Cabot University, Rome. She has previously lectured in philosophy at UEA and Anglia Ruskin University, and in philosophy and literature at the University of Genoa. Her research covers different areas of ethics: from meta ethics and moral psychology, to applied ethics and animal ethics in particular. She conducts various outreach and public engagement sessions on animal ethics in schools, pubs, and cultural associations.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1. How do we think about animals? Anthropocentrism, animality, ecology, and other key concepts.
11:15	
11:45 – 13:00	Coffee
13:00	Session 2. Theories in animal ethics
14:00 – 15:15	Lunch
	Session 3. Forms of oppression: animal rights and feminism
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4. Ethics in action: abolition or welfare?
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To present the main reasons why animal ethics is a pressing and difficult area of (specifically) philosophical thinking
- To familiarise students with key concepts and theories in animal ethics, and with their main areas of application.

Content:

The course will offer an introduction to questions in, and approaches to, animal ethics, as comprehensive as possible given the time frame. It will outline the key concepts in animal ethics in order to ground an understanding of the reasons why this field exists at all and why it is hotly debated. That will involve an appreciation of the radical differences and similarities between human and non-human animals, and the conceptual difficulties these give rise to. Then the main theories in animal ethics will be explained (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics) in relation to specific problems in the context of animal use. Some space will be given to feminist approaches because of the suggestion that animal oppression may not be an isolated case and therefore oppression should be tackled more generally. Finally, the political outcome of the ethical concepts and theories presented will be considered, in relation to the debate between proponents of animal welfare and of abolition of animal use.

Presentation of the course:

1 How do we think about animals?

The introductory session will examine the difficulties we face when we try to think clearly about the question of how we (should) relate to animals. Thus, key concepts will be introduced, including: anthropocentrism and speciesism, reasonable partiality, acknowledging the animal nature of human beings, religious views, awe and reverence for animals, fear and antagonism, denial and self-knowledge, practical interests, and the importance of moral integrity.

The structure and pace of the presentation will give space for dialogue with the students, in order to sound their previous knowledge and perspective and to gauge the diversity in culture and background, which will be valuable in the following exercise.

Students will then be asked to brainstorm what they know about traditional and current practices in relation to the different areas of animal use; then they will be asked to select the main areas of moral concern in their view, in relation to each domain:

Killing animals for meat	Dairy	Eggs
Experimenting on animals	Pets	
Entertainment: zoos and circuses		Clothing: leather and fur

2 Theories in animal ethics

The second session will begin with a 30-minute lecture presenting the main theories in animal ethics: Singer's classic utilitarian view, Tom Regan's and Christine Korsgaard's deontological theories, and a virtue-based and concept-based approach pioneered by Cora Diamond.

Then the group will be split into three small groups and one of the above theories will be assigned to each group; they will be asked to discuss the merits and the problems of the theory in question and its application to the various problems of animal use in our society.

3 Forms of oppression: animal rights and feminism

This session considers not only the forms of oppression and exploitation, but also the causes, traced back to a particular mental attitude of 'othering' and related 'distancing'. Based on feminist approaches by Carol J. Adams, Josephine Donovan and Marti Kheel, the discussion will revolve around: the socio-historical links between patriarchy and meat eating; the existential similarities between the oppression of women and that of animals; the similarities between the treatment of female individuals across species.

The presentation will be divided into three parts, to allow time for debate after each point. Plenty of examples will be offered to anchor the discussion.

4 Ethics in action: abolition or welfare?

In the last session we consider the political outcome of the ideas examined during the day and ask ourselves: What then should we do?

Students will be asked to place themselves in the position of policy makers and imagine what, if they were to decide, society should do as to address the problems presented in animal ethics. The debate will hinge on the opposition of two views: abolitionism and welfarism.

The discussion in this session will depend on the theories presented in the earlier sessions, so students will be asked to use the 'tools' offered previously to inform their debate.

This session will consist of a short presentation concerning the abolition vs welfare issue and a longer group discussion, followed by a debate between two groups or representatives.

If time allows, there may be a brief survey to see whether, and if so how, students' ideas about animal ethics have changed during the course of the day.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Show awareness of the key areas of concern in animal ethics, in terms of actual practices and the related moral issues.
- Understand the three main animal ethics theories (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics) and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- Apply the arguments concerning the moral standing of non-human and human animals to specific questions concerning the use of non-human animals.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Background:

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Coetzee, J.M.	<i>The Lives of Animals</i>	Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999 http://tannerlectures.utah.edu/documents/a-to-z/c/Coetzee99.pdf
Degrazia, D.	<i>Taking Animals Seriously</i>	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996
Diamond, C.	Eating Meat and Eating People.	<i>Philosophy</i> , 53(206): 465-479, 1978. http://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/hale/ENVS5200/Diamond%20--%20Eating%20Meat%20and%20Eating%20People.pdf
Francione, G. & Garner, R.	<i>The Animal Rights Debate: Abolition or Regulation?</i>	Columbia University Press, 2010
Midgley, M.	<i>Animals and Why They Matter: A Journey Around the Species Barrier.</i>	Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1983.
Milligan, T.	<i>Animal Ethics: The Basics.</i>	London and New York: Routledge, 2015
Regan, T.	The Case for Animal Rights.	In: Peter Singer (ed.), <i>In Defense of Animals</i> . New York: Blackwell, 1985, pp. 13-26 http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-m/regan03.htm
Singer, P.	<i>Animal Liberation.</i>	New York: Harper Collins, 1975

Specific issues:

Adams, C.J.	<i>The Sexual Politics of Meat</i>	New York: Continuum, 1990
Foer, J.S.	<i>Eating Animals</i>	Boston, MA: Little, Brown and co. 2009

Linzey, A. and C. (eds.) Normalising the Unthinkable (full report):
<http://www.oxfordanimalethics.com/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/Normalising-the-Unthinkable-Report.pdf>

Linzey, A. *Creatures of the Same God* Lantern Books, 2009

Francione, G. The Abolitionist Approach: <http://www.abolitionistapproach.com>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

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