Human-Animal Studies: How have inter-species relations shaped our own humanity?

**HUM 305: Human-Animal Studies** (3 cr) brings a Humanities perspective to questions of inter-species relations, shifting the context of study from technologies of production to cultural narratives and representations.

Areas of study include:
- The human-animal bond
- Representations of animals in literature, art, film, and theater
- The zoological gaze
- Animals as spectacle and sport
- Animals as food, pets, and scientific objects
- Animals and emotion

Exploring human-animal relations illuminates our understanding of sustainability, human identity, and cultural institutions. This course draws on the environmental sciences and the environmental humanities, providing a multidisciplinary approach to understanding cultural influences on inter-species relations, ecology, and sustainability.

In this course, we will ask:
- In what ways do human-animal relations shape our relations to ecosystems and to sustainability?
- How do our relations with other animal species shape human self-identity?
- What can we learn about our culture by exploring human-animal relations through narratives and images in film, art, literature, and cultural institutions?

Since 2001, the field of Human-Animal Studies (HAS) has grown to include:
- twenty-three college programs in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Israel and the Netherlands
- eight veterinary school programs in North America

Professional organizations include:
- Animals & Society Institute
- The Kerulos Institute
- Culture & Animals Foundation
- New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies
- Australian Animal Studies Group

**Dr. Greta Gaard** is a widely-published scholar in Human-Animal Studies, Sustainability Studies, and Ecocriticism. Her work includes five books and over 50 articles in journals such as *The Ecologist, Environmental Ethics, Ecozon@*, and *Organization & Environment*.

**About HUM 305**
- offered Fall 2013
- meets the Multidisciplinary Requirement for General Education.

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