DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Sciences  
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: AGR 236W; Animals and Society  
SEMESTER: Fall 2007  
LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING: THOM, Room 221  
CLASS MEETING TIME: Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:20  
INSTRUCTOR: Lesley A. Rakowitz, Lecturer  
OFFICE LOCATION: Thomason - Room 313 A  
TELEPHONE: Telephone: 294-3675  
e-mail: lrakowitz@shsu.edu  
OFFICE HOURS: As posted or by appointment  

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will...  
...have a broad range of contemporary issues of animals and their relationship with the society and the human world  
...develop an understanding of societal and cultural attitudes towards animals  
...acknowledge and understand the ethical issues surrounding human relationships with non-human animals  

REFERENCE AND TEXTBOOK: None  

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected.  
If a student misses fails to submit materials on the scheduled due date, the grade will be adjusted one (1) letter grade for each day late.  

GRADING PLAN: The course will consist of multi types of projects and assignments.  
Weights for each area are listed below.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals and Society Portfolio</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (HW, Debate assessments, etc.)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Grade distributions will be based upon the following scale:  
A = 90 – 100;  B = 80 – 89;  C = 70 – 79;  D = 60 – 69;  F = <60  

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of
academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Cheating WILL NOT be tolerated. Students caught cheating on an exam or project will be given a zero (0) and a letter will be written to the student's file.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:
Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engage in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:
It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling 936.294.1720.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be permitted to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams and/or assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE:
I. DEBATE TOPICS
1. On Farm Vet Practices
2. Animals in Research
3. Factory Farming/Confinement
4. Animals for Sport, Recreation (rodeo, zoo, circus, etc)
5. Horse Slaughter
6. Animals and the Environment
7. Hunting
8. Animal Cloning
9. Livestock Shows
10. Religious Rituals and Practices
Expectations:
• Debate topics will be assigned to groups
• Groups will have a minimum of 15 minutes for opening comments to
  converse their position (Pro or Con) of the issue and may provide
  supplemental materials (PowerPoint, pictures, documents, videos)
• Groups must provide a thorough opening discussion
• Each group will have 15 minutes for closing comments
• Groups must provide thorough and relevant closing comments
• Questions will be asked from non-debating students
• Non-presenting students will engage in class discussion and must submit
  a summation document of their personal assessment of the issue
• Each group will be both peer (25%) and instructor (75%) evaluated

Critique and Evaluation forms:
• Will be provided by the instructor and must be turned in at the end of the class
  period
• Evaluations and comments should be constructive
• Example forms are attached

II. ANIMALS AND SOCIETY PORTFOLIO

Portfolio will be divided into 2 sections:
A. Photo
B. Literature

A. Photo section expectations:
• Select 6 categories to represent
• 2 pictures for each category
• 8 X 10’s
• Color or Black and White
• Documentary Caption/Paragraph

Photo Categories:
1. Recreation
2. Work
3. Religion
4. Therapy/Human Welfare
5. Companion
6. Art/Aesthetics
7. Production Agriculture
8. Animal Symbolism
9. Sports

B. Literature section expectations:
• Find 5 articles relative to things discussed in class
• Articles may be obtained from newspapers, magazines, journals, web
• Write summary of the article and personal assessment
• Both article and summary must be included in the portfolio

*Photos and articles must be submitted in portfolio or binder
*Grade will be assessed based on completeness, creativity, and neatness

This syllabus is subject to change depending on time constraints. Grades will be equally weighed
upon the change or modification announced in class.
Informative Presentation

| Topic: | |  
| Group: | |  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Assigned</th>
</tr>
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</table>

I. **Content** 70
   a. Organization of Topic
   b. Literature Review
   c. Knowledge of Subject
   d. Completeness of Topic

**Comments:**

II. **Supporting Materials** 20
   a. Powerpoint
   b. Video Clips
   c. Articles
   d. Photos

**Comments:**

III. **Presentation** 10
    a. Professionalism
    b. Enthusiasm
    c. Presentation Skills
    d. Encourage classroom participation

**Comments:**
Debate

Topic: ________________________________________________________________

Group: _______________________________________________________________

<table>
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<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Assigned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Opening Comments</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.a. Organization of Topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.b. Literature Review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I.c. Knowledge of Subject</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I.d. Completeness of Topic</td>
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Comments:

II. Debate | 50 | ____________ |
| II.a. Effectiveness | | |
| II.b. Validity of Information | | |

Comments:

III. Closing Comments | 25 | ____________ |
| III.a. Organization of Topic | | |
| III.b. Completeness of Topic | | |

Comments:
Course Calendar

Wednesday May 30
Course Introduction

Thursday May 31
Lecture

Friday June 1
Lecture

Monday June 4
Informative Presentations
Group 1: Animal Rights vs. Welfare
Group 2: Religion and Symbolism

Tuesday June 5
Lecture

Wednesday June 6
Lecture

Thursday June 7
Informative Presentations
Group 3: Animal Abuse and Social Violence
Group 4: Animal Related Human Behavior

Friday June 8
Informative Presentations
Group 5: Animals in Literature and Movies

Monday June 11
Debate #1
Animals in Research: Groups 1 (pro) and 5 (con)

Tuesday June 12
Lecture

Wednesday June 13
Lecture

Thursday June 14
Debate #2
Factory Farming: Groups 4 (pro) and 1 (con)

Debate #3
Animals for Sport/Recreation: Groups 3 (pro) and 2 (con)
**Friday June 15**
Debate #4
Horse Slaughter: Groups 5 (pro) and 4 (con)

**Monday June 18**
Debate #5
Animals and the Environment: Groups 2 (pro) and 3 (con)

**Tuesday June 19 – Friday June 22**
NO CLASS – Work on Portfolio

**Monday June 25 – Wednesday June 27**
Project Presentations
*All students turn in portfolio on Monday June 25*

**Thursday June 28**
Lecture and wrap up

**Friday June 29**
Final