



**Anthropology 3013  
Animals and People  
Winter 2021**

**Class Times:** Asynchronous  
**Location:** WEB

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Metcalfe  
E-mail: [jmetcal1@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:jmetcal1@lakeheadu.ca)  
Office Hours/Optional Tutorial: Thursdays at 10:00 am (Zoom – see course website)

Please do not hesitate to ask questions by email, post to the 'general questions' discussion board, attend my office hours/tutorial, or set up a Zoom meeting outside of my regular office hours. Note that I do not regularly answer emails on evenings or weekends.

**Course Description:** Since the origin of our species, animals have been central to human existence. Animals provide us with food and are at the base of our economic systems. Over the course of human history we have also conceived of animals as pets, companions, entertainers, workers, research subjects, ecosystem engineers, symbols, deities, ancestors, and relatives. This course will draw on ethnographic, archaeological, and Indigenous perspectives to examine the material and ideological roles of animals in human society and the diversity of perspectives on human animal-relations over time and space.

**Format:** This is an online asynchronous course with no set meeting times. However, students are expected to progress through the material at approximately the same pace, on a week-by-week basis according to the deadlines listed below and on the course website. A detailed list of tasks for each week will be posted on the course website (Content folder). Much of the content will be covered in an online 'seminar style' format. That means you are expected to do all of the readings and engage in substantive discussions using the course discussion board. This approach requires that you act as a co-creator of knowledge rather than a passive listener. In other words, you must take ownership for your own learning and actively engage with the course material in order to learn from and do well in this course.

**Prerequisites:** Second year standing or higher, or permission of the Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Note that this is a reading-intensive course that requires active engagement and critical thinking. Grading will be held to an upper-level standard.

**Course Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Discuss ways that humans conceive of and relate to other-than-human animals using examples drawn from western science, cultural anthropology, archaeology, and Indigenous knowledge
- Reflect on their own perspective and demonstrate openness to alternative perspectives
- Critically analyze popular science, ethnographic, and archaeological texts
- Present the results of critical self-reflection and research in oral and written formats

**Required Texts:**

Safina, C., 2020. *Becoming Wild: How Animal Cultures Raise Families, Create Beauty, and Achieve Peace*, Henry Holt and Company, New York.

Govindrajan, R., 2018. *Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India's Central Himalayas*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Brink, J., 2008. *Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains*, Athabasca University Press, Edmonton.

**Grades Breakdown** (Due dates are at **noon** on the dates indicated.)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Value (%)</b>	<b>Due Date</b> (noon on dates indicated)
Participation	5	Throughout the term
Discussions – Direct Responses	10	Every Tuesday
Discussions – Comments	10	Every Friday
Assignment 1: Animal encounters	10	Friday Jan. 29
Assignment 2: Animal blog	10	Friday Feb. 12
Assignment 3: Animal research proposal	5	Friday March 5
Assignment 4: Animal research presentation	15	Friday March 26
Peer feedback on presentations	5	Friday April 2
Final Exam (take-home, essay format)	30	Friday April 16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Participation** (5% of final grade) includes completion of and active engagement with all course activities, including those that are not formally graded.

**Discussions – Direct Responses** (10% of final grade). Each week there will be a discussion question (or questions) related to the week’s readings. Direct responses to these questions are due every **Tuesday at noon**. You must post a Direct Response every week. Please read other peoples’ responses to benefit from their insights and to get ideas for how to improve your response writing. The instructor will read every post but will not always provide written feedback.

**Discussion – Comments** (10% of final grade). **Every week**, in addition to your Direct Response, you must initiate or engage in a comment-based discussion on someone

else's post. Comments are due each **Friday at noon**. Comments do not need to be long, but they should demonstrate thought and/or insight. Feel free to include relevant photos, videos, and/or links.

**Assignment 1: Animal encounters** (10% of final grade). You will spend time with an animal (or animals) and submit your notes and summary report. Ideally you will interact with a live animal (e.g., family pet or even resident spider), but alternatives are possible. Further details will be posted on the course website.

**Assignment 2: Animal blog** (10% of final grade). You will compile information about an animal or animal relationship in a blog format. You will also be required to post constructive comments on other student blogs. Further details will be posted on the course website.

**Assignment 3: Animal research proposal** (5% of final grade). You will write a brief topic proposal and outline for your animal research presentation (Assignment 4). Further details will be posted on the course website.

**Assignment 4: Animal research presentation** (20% of final grade, including 15% for the presentation and 5% for providing constructive feedback on other presentations). You will conduct research on the topic you proposed in Assignment 3. You will present the results of your research as an asynchronous, recorded presentation (approximately 10 minutes long). Further details will be posted on the course website.

**Final exam** (30% of final grade). Take-home, essay format. Further details will be provided later in the course.

### **Lateness Policies**

- **Late Discussion posts** (Direct Responses or Comments) will receive a grade of zero. The reason for this is that these posts are intended to promote active engagement and interaction among your classmates, which is only possible if posts are made in a timely manner.
- **Late Assignments** will receive deductions of 5% per calendar day (including weekends and holidays). Assignments more than one week (7 days) past a deadline will not be accepted without prior permission from the instructor and will receive a grade of zero.
- **Late Final Exam:** The final exam is due during exam period, on Friday April 16 (noon). However, there will be an automatic 3-day grace period with no late penalty (to Monday April 19 at noon). After this date, late exams will receive a deduction of 5% per calendar day, including weekends and holidays. Final exams submitted more than one week (7 days) past the original due date will not be accepted without prior permission from the instructor and will receive a grade of zero.

## Course Schedule (subject to modification)

The schedule below lists the **readings and major assignments only**. Other required tasks for each week will be posted on the course website in the content folder. **Readings must be completed by Tuesdays at noon** in order to post reading responses on the course website by that time (see above). Discussion post comments and assignments are due on Fridays at noon. See above and the course content folder for more information on deadlines.

### Introduction to the Course

Week 1 (ends Friday Jan. 15)

- No readings (see content folder for tasks)

### Module 1: Animal Cultures (Western Science)

Week 2 (ends Friday Jan. 22)

- Safina Prologue & Realm One: Raising Families (Sperm Whales)

Week 3 (ends Friday Jan. 29)

- Safina Realm Two: Creating Beauty (Scarlet Macaws)
- **Assignment 1: Animal Encounters**

Week 4 (ends Friday Feb. 5)

- Safina Realm Three: Achieving Peace (Chimpanzees)

### Module 2: Interspecies Relatedness (Cultural Anthropology)

Week 5 (ends Friday Feb. 12)

- Govrindajan Ch. 1 (Introduction)
- **Assignment 2: Animal Blog**

*Study Break February 15 – 18: No classes*

Week 6 (ends Friday Feb. 26)

- Govrindajan Ch. 2 (Goats & Sacrifice)

Week 7 (ends Friday Mar. 5)

- Govrindajan Ch. 3 (Cows & Nationalism)
- **Assignment 3: Animal Research Proposal**

Week 8 (ends Friday Mar. 12)

- Govrindajan Ch. 4 (Monkeys & Belonging)
- Govrindajan Ch. 5 (Pigs & Colonialism)

Week 9 (ends Friday Mar. 19)

- Govrindajan Ch. 6 (Bears & Sexuality)
- Govrindajan Epilogue

### **Module 3: Plains Buffalo Hunting (Archaeology)**

Week 10 (ends Friday Mar. 26)

- Brink Ch. 1 – 4 (The Buffalo Jump, The Buffalo, A Year in the Life, The Killing Fields)
- **Assignment 4: Animal Research Presentation**

Week 11 (ends Friday Apr. 2)

- Brink Ch. 5 – 7 (Rounding Up, The Great Kill, Cooking up the Spoils)
- **Constructive feedback on other students' presentations**

Week 12 (ends Friday Apr. 9)

- Brink Ch. 8 – 10 (Going Home, The End of the Buffalo Hunt, The Past Becomes the Present), Epilogue (Just a Simple Stone)

**Final exam (take-home, written format) due during exam period (Friday April 16 at noon, with an automatic 3-day grace period to Monday April 19 at noon)**

### **Important Dates**

First day of classes: Jan 11  
 Add date: Jan 22  
 Study Break: Feb 15 - 19  
 Drop/Withdraw date: March 12  
 Good Friday holiday: April 2  
 Easter Monday holiday: April 5  
 Last day of classes: Apr. 13  
 Exam period: April 16 - 25

## General Information

### Students in this course are expected to:

- Take ownership of their learning by
  - Actively engaging with course materials and activities
  - Keeping track of deadlines and expectations
  - Reaching out to the instructor early on if struggling
- Be respectful toward the instructor and peers

### Regulations – from the Lakehead University [Academic Calendar](#)

“It is the responsibility of each student registered at Lakehead University to be familiar with, and comply with all the terms, requirements, regulations, policies and conditions in the Lakehead University Academic Calendar. This includes, but is not limited to, Academic Program Requirements, Academic Schedule of Dates, University and Faculty/School Policies and Regulations and the Fees and Refund Policies and Schedules.”

**Plagiarism** is defined in [University Regulation IX](#) with additional examples in Article I, Section 1 of The Code. Sanctions associated with Academic Misconduct are defined in Article II of The Code and Enforcement Procedures are outlined in Article III of The Code. Students wishing to learn more about Academic Misconduct are encouraged to read the [University and relevant Faculty Regulations](#) and The Code (noted above) and access other resources on the [Teaching Commons](#) website.

**Support for Students** – there are many resources available to support our students. These include but are not limited to:

- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Student Success Centre](#)
- [Student Accessibility Centre](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Academic Support Zone](#) (Writing and Math Tutoring Centre)

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities and/or medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please contact Student Accessibility Services <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca> (SC0003, 343-8047 or [sas@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:sas@lakeheadu.ca))