



**Anthropology 3013
Animals and People
Winter 2023**

Class Times: Asynchronous (no scheduled classes)
Location: mycourselink website

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Metcalfe
E-mail: jmetcal1@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 am – 12 pm (drop in on Zoom), or by appointment on other days

Please do not hesitate to ask questions by email, attend my office hours, or set up a meeting outside of 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 written 'seminar style' format**. That means you will be expected to do all of the readings and engage in substantive written 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- and writing-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.

Selected journal articles and videos that will be posted on the course website

Grades Breakdown

Item	Value (%)	Due Date (noon on dates indicated)
Course Outline Quiz	2	Friday Jan. 13, noon
Self-Introduction	3	Friday Jan. 13, noon
Weekly Discussions – Direct Responses	20	Every Tuesday, noon
Weekly Discussions – Comments	10	Every Friday, noon
'Animal Encounters' Assignment	25	Friday Feb. 10 noon
Seminar Proposal & Annotated Bibliography	10	Friday March 3, noon
Virtual Seminar	25	Friday March 31, noon
Virtual Seminar Discussion	5	Friday April 7, noon
TOTAL	100	

Course Outline Quiz (2% of final grade). This quiz is designed to ensure you are familiar with key aspects of the course expectations, as described on the course outline. You have unlimited attempts to complete this quiz, and only your best attempt will count, so everyone should be able to get 100%.

Self-Introduction (3% of final grade): Upload a brief (1-2 minute) self-introduction to the course website as a video (preferred) or audio file. This will help us start building community in our online course. Full instructions are on the course website.

Weekly Discussions – Direct Responses (20% of final grade). Each week there will be one or two discussion questions related to the week's readings. Direct responses to these questions are **due every Tuesday at noon**. Actively engaging in the online discussions will increase your understanding of the course material and help prepare

you for the assignments. Reading other peoples' responses will allow you to benefit from their insights and to get ideas for how to improve your own writing. Advice on creating high-quality discussion posts is posted on the course website.

Weekly 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. Your comments will be assessed at the end of the course based on quantity, quality (degree to which your comments enhanced the discussion), and timeliness (posting before due date). Further advice on discussion posts is posted on the course website.

'Animal Encounters' Assignment (25% of final grade). This assignment is the assessment for Module 1. You will spend time with an other-than-human animal and write a report on your experience. You will also reflect on how the assignment relates to the Module 1 readings (Safina 2020). Full instructions will be posted on the course website.

Seminar proposal & annotated bibliography (10% of final grade). You will briefly explain your proposed virtual seminar topic and submit an annotated bibliography with 3 key academic sources that will support your research. Further details will be posted on the course website.

Virtual Seminar (25% of final grade). This will be a video-recorded oral presentation of the results of your independent literature research (as described in your research proposal and annotated bibliography). You should begin working on this soon after receiving feedback on your proposal. Full instructions will be posted on the course website.

Virtual Seminar Discussion (5% of final grade). You will view and comment on a selection of your classmates' virtual seminar presentations.

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 the posts are made in a timely manner.
- **Late Assignments, Proposals, or Essays** 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 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. 13)

- No readings (see content folder for tasks)
- **Self-introductions due Friday Jan 13 at noon**

Module 1: Animal Cultures (Western Science)

Week 2 (ends Friday Jan. 20)

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

Week 3 (ends Friday Jan. 27)

- Safina Realm Two: Creating Beauty (Scarlet Macaws)

Week 4 (ends Friday Feb. 3)

- Safina Realm Three: Achieving Peace (Chimpanzees)

Module 2: Interspecies Relatedness (Cultural Anthropology)

Week 5 (ends Friday Feb. 10)

- Govindrajan Ch. 1 (Introduction)
- **'Animal Encounters' assignment due Friday Feb 10 at noon**

Week 6 (ends Friday Feb 17)

- Govindrajan Ch. 2 (Goats & Sacrifice)

[Study Break February 20 – 24: No classes]

Week 7 (ends Friday Mar. 3)

- Govindrajan Ch. 3 (Cows & Nationalism)
- **Seminar Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due Friday March 3 at noon**

Week 8 (ends Friday Mar. 10)

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

Week 9 (ends Friday Mar. 17)

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

Module 3: Bison (Indigenous Knowledge, Archaeology & Conservation)

Week 10 (ends Friday Mar. 24)

- Barsh, R.L. & Marlor, C. (2003). Driving bison and Blackfoot science. *Human Ecology* 31, 571-593.

Week 11 (ends Friday Mar. 31)

- Tănăsescu, M. (2019). Restorative ecological practice: the case of the European bison in the southern Carpathians, Romania. *Geoforum* 105, 99-108.
- **Virtual Seminar due Friday March 31**

Week 12 (ends Thursday Apr. 6)

- No readings
- Videos: *Bring them Home* and *Iniskim*
- Website: Buffalo Treaty
- **Virtual Seminar Discussions (for credit) end Friday April 7**

Important Dates: Winter 2023

First day of classes: Mon Jan 9

Add date: Fri Jan 20

Study Break: Mon Feb 20 – Fri Feb 24

Drop/Withdraw date: Fri March 10

Good Friday holiday: Friday April 7

Easter Monday holiday: Monday April 10

Last day of classes: Tues Apr. 11 (makeup day for Friday April 7)

Exam period: Fri April 14 – Mon April 24 (contingency day: April 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
- Being respectful to 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.

Academic Integrity

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity ("[The Code](#)") - and, in particular, **sections 26 and 83 through 85**. Non-compliance with the Code will NOT be tolerated in this course and the Code will be adhered to in terms of disciplinary action. The Code provides a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

Copyright

Students should be aware that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials prepared for this course are protected in their entirety by copyright. Students are expected to comply with this copyright by only accessing and using the course materials for personal educational use related to the course, and that the materials cannot be shared in any way, without the written authorization of the course instructor. If this copyright is infringed in anyway, students may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

Supports for Students – there are many resources available to support students, including:

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

- [Lakehead International](#)
- [Indigenous Initiatives](#)

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](#) (SC0003, 343-8047 or sas@lakeheadu.ca)

As a university student, you may sometimes **experience mental health concerns or stressful events** that interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily activities. All of us can benefit from support during times of struggle. If you or anyone you know experiences academic stress, difficult life events or feelings of anxiety or depression, **Student Health and Wellness** is there to help. Their services are free for Lakehead Students and appointments are available. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on and off campus at lakeheadu.ca/shw. Remember that getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do for yourself, for those you care about, and for those who care about you. Asking for support sooner rather than later is almost always helpful.