



EXPLORING HUMAN  
AND NONHUMAN  
ANIMAL BODIES  
IN LITERATURE  
AND FILM

CHID 250B

Instructor: Dr. Nancy White Iff | MW 12:30-2:20 | VLPA | SLN 12178 | SPR17

The interests of human and nonhuman animals are sometimes at odds with one another and with the planet. Some animals are viewed by humans as sympathetic, others as valuable, and still others are viewed as pests or dangers. While the sovereignty of humans is often exerted over nonhuman animals, this course will also question the boundaries of the human body itself as well as its place “at the top of the food chain.” Exploring Animal Bodies will interrogate the role of bodies (human and nonhuman) in society by examining literary and filmic works in which they feature prominently. Some questions we will investigate are: Whose bodies are subjugated and whose are elevated? Why do we prefer certain bodies to others and what kinds of choices do we make based on those preferences? Where do our bodies end and where do others begin? At what point is a body no longer considered human? Who exerts power over bodies and to what end?