

A classic movie poster for King Kong. At the top, King Kong is shown roaring with his arms outstretched, perched on a ledge. Below him, a crowd of people is gathered, some holding up torches. The background is a cityscape at night. The text 'CHID 390A' is in the top left, 'The Postcolonial Animal' is in the center, and 'KING KONG' is in large letters at the bottom. The name of the professor and production details are at the very bottom.

CHID

390A

The Postcolonial Animal

KING KONG

With

Professor María Elena García

Produced WINTER 2014

T/Th | 10:30~12:20 | I&S | W credit

This winter CHID 390 will explore the politics of crossing the human/nonhuman divide in ways seen and unseen. Specifically, we will engage texts and theorists focused on “the postcolonial animal,” shorthand for the urgency and utility of placing culture, nature and empire within the same analytic frame. At the frontier of intersectional analyses of power and difference, race and species, Postcolonial Animal Studies asks questions about the ways in which the power and knowledge relations of empire, colonialism, development, and science have simultaneously and paradoxically entangled human and non-human bodies and mystified, euphemized, and invisibilized those very entanglements. Drawing on the vibrant fields of Postcolonial Studies and Animal Studies, students will consider the importance of non-human beings to a variety of social and political projects, and will examine the accompanying ideological, ontological, and cultural thinking that often continues to center the human.