

Animal, Capital, Power

Instructor: Will McKeithen (wmck@uw.edu)

CHID 480B: Win. 2017 - 12518 - T/TH 2:30-4:20



How does an animal become capital, become a commodity, become part of economic life? This course explores this and related questions, asking how capitalist economies, social power relations, and 'the animal' – as a biological, social, and symbolic force – intertwine to produce and affect the lives of humans and nonhumans. Through seminar discussions, short written reflections, and a final paper or multi-media project, students will engage ideas from political economy, the history of science, social theories of difference, and body studies. Readings will range from witch hunts in early modern Europe to modern-day zoos and will cover themes including labor, medicine, colonialism, sexuality, food, race, gender, and species. Together we will ask how life becomes livestock.