

Mini-Syllabus: Giving Animals Rights

By Guest Contributor

Categories : Culture

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Course Description

Our society's relationship with animals is rapidly changing: courts are considering giving chimpanzees personhood, more than 200 U.S. cities and counties have banned the sale of dogs from puppy mills, and Silicon Valley has gone bananas for "clean meat," real meat grown from animal cells rather than confined cows and chickens.

In this course, we'll dive into animal rights literature and film to learn about the myriad ways we humans abuse animals (not for the faint of heart), but also how we're learning to be a little more humane toward other species with which we inhabit this planet.

Nonfiction Books

- [Eating Animals](#) by Jonathan Safran Foer (Hachette Book Group, 2009)
- [The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory](#) by Carol J. Adams (Bloomsbury, 1990)
- [Animal Liberation](#) by Peter Singer (Harper Collins, 1975)
- [Aphro-IsM: Essays on Pop Culture, Feminism, and Black Veganism from Two Sisters](#) by Aph Ko and Syl Ko (Lantern, 2017)

Essays and Articles

- [Silicon Valley and the Search for Meatless Meat](#) by Beth Kowitt (Fortune Magazine, 2017)
- [Second Thoughts of an Animal Researcher](#) by John Gluck (*New York Times*, 2016)
- [Animal Factory Farms, Explained](#) by Liz Pachaud (*Teen Vogue*, 2017)
- [The Dog Factory: Inside the Sickening World of Puppy Mills](#) by Paul Solotaroff (*Rolling Stone*, 2017)
- [The FBI's Hunt for Two Missing Piglets Reveals the Federal Cover-Up of Barbaric Factory Farms](#) by Glenn Greenwald (*The Intercept*, 2017)
- [Why All of America's Circus Animals Could Soon be Free](#) by Natasha Daly (*National Geographic*, 2017)

Film

- [Carnage](#) (BBC, 2017)
- [Okja](#) (Netflix, 2017)

Photography

- [We Animals](#) by Jo-Anne McArthur

Documentary

- [Unlocking the Cage](#) (HBO, 2016)
 - [Dealing Dogs](#) (HBO, 2006)
 - [The Ghosts in Our Machine](#) (Ghosts Media, Inc., 2013)
 - [Death on a Factory Farm](#) (HBO, 2009)
 - [Blackfish](#) (CNN Films/Netflix, 2013)
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Kenny Torrella has worked in the animal rights movement for nearly a decade in various roles: outreach, state legislation, institutional policy, and communications. His writing has appeared in *Fortune Magazine*, *Juked*, *The Rumpus*, *Word Riot*, *NAILED*, *Rain Taxi*, *Conscious Company*, *Oblong*, and elsewhere.

Featured Image: Film still from *Okja*, dir. Bong Joon-ho