

Marcel Hénaff

## SYLLABUS

Graduate Seminar Winter 2010 –  
LTCO 287 & POLI 213 *Culture and Political Theory*  
Wedn. 4:00- 6:50 - Lit Bldg # 437

### ***Animality / Humanity & Bio-politics***

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Session - Introduction. The End of the Human Exception.**

- Ecological consciousness - Human animality & animal humanity
- Common fate. – The specular relationship - Nietzsche - Bataille -
- bio-power: Foucault– Agamben
- Narratives of animality : myths, fables, folklore
- The current shift in human history.

#### **A - PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL APPROACH**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session - Human Populations: Control & Security: Foucault & Agamben**

M. Foucault: Biopower: excerpts from *History of Sexuality* Vol. 1 & Lecture on “The political technology of individuals” [the governance of large populations vs. sovereignty]; New State scopes : disciplining, controlling, excluding, securizing  
G. Agamben : animality and biopolitics: excerpts from *The Open & Homo Sacer*.  
Sovereignty, exclusion, and exception. The human animal and the concentration camp

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session - Becoming Animal: Deleuze**

- G. Deleuze : Excerpts from *1000 Plateaus & Kafka*.
- Becoming animal; Assemblages – Rhizomes - Being and Becoming - Figures of Otherness.
- Kafka and animality - *Metamorphosis* - Deleuze on Kafka.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Session - to be discussed - Movies**

Ex. *Willard* - *King Kong* – *The Island of Dr. Moreau*- *Planet of the Apes* - *The Wild Child* (Truffaut) -- *Human Nature* (Gondry) -- *The Fly* (Cronenberg). *Jurassic Park*

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Session - The Subjectivation of human/animal relationships: Derrida & Haraway**

- J. Derrida : *The Animal That Therefore I Am*; *The Beast and the Sovereign*-- beyond the difference between animals and humans.
- D. Haraway: *Simians, Cyborgs and Women* -- *When Species Meet*.  
Closely related aliens. – The gender gap - Immune power - Hybrid communities.

## **B- BIO-PALEONTOLOGY/ ETHOLOGY/ ANTHROPOLOGY**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Session - Darwin's Heritage: The Evolution and Global History of Living Beings**

- Paleontology/Biology: Darwin: excerpts from *Descent of Man & Expression of Emotions in Animals*. - Animal roots of humanity - Other texts by S. Jay Gould, etc.
- Ethology: K. Lorenz: *On Aggression*; J. Goodall: *The Chimpanzees of Gombe*.
- F. de Waal: *Politics of the Chimpanzee* : animal emotions and cognition.
- Other approaches: T. H. Huxley, E. Westermarck, D. Morris; M.D. Hauser

### **7<sup>th</sup> Session - Anthropology: Hunter-Gatherers & the Animal World**

- Descola – Theory of the 4 fundamental ontologies: animism, totemism, analogism, and naturalism in *Beyond Nature and Culture; In the Society of Nature; Spears of Twilight; Life and Death in the Amazonian Jungle*.
- Shamanism: selected texts [K. Rasmussen; J. Clottes & L. William and the painted caves. - R. Hamayon: Buriats of Siberia; Viveiros de Castro and Amazonia]
- The world of the hunter-gatherers: Animal and plant worlds as humanlike societies.
- The alliance between humans and non-humans. - Means of communication.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Session - Anthropology : Agro-Pastoral Societies: Domestication and Sacrifice**

- The agricultural revolution: the emergence of domesticated animals - a new alliance.
- The Emergence of sacrifice; ex. Middle East, India, Asia, Greece, Africa, etc.
- Texts by M. Detienne & J.P. Vernant [Ancient Greece], Ch. Malamoud [Vedic India].  
Vegetarianism and Orphism vs. Dionysism in ancient Greece.
- Cannibalism [various types]; animal-human hybrids [werewolves; vampires]

## **C – ETHICAL AND LEGAL PERSPECTIVES –RETURNING TO BIOPOLITICS**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Session - animals rights – Hybrid Communities**

- New philosophical questions:
- M. Serres – *The Natural Contract* : mastering our mastery of nature.
- R. Wright – *The Moral Animal* - P. Singer: *How Are We to Live?*
- The abolitionist approach. Vegans - G. Francione: *Animals Are Persons*.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Session - Post-Modern Visions – Non-Humans et Post-Humans**

- The ecological paradox and the new state of emergency.
- Returning to bio-politics; the end of the human exception or a complete humanity ?
- Globalization and our fate as a living species.