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College Hall, Room 447

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30

AROL 235I

**Special Topics: Animals in Archaeology
Spring Semester 2010**

In this course the relationship between humans and animals from the Palaeolithic to the end of the Roman Period. Why, when and how did humans use animals? How did animals influence and change the social and economic structures of human societies? Important concepts that will be analyzed and discussed in class include:

- The domestication of animals
- The secondary products revolution
- The development of specialized ways of subsistence such as pastoralism and nomadism

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Learn how to read and interpret scientific texts
- Identify and list the main archaeological methods and theories available for the study of human-animal relations in the past
- Assess the value and contribution of each method and theory for the study of human-animal relations
- Learn how to conduct research and present the results in oral and written form

2. Useful sources

Borowski, O.

1998 *Every Living Thing. Daily Use of Animals in Ancient Israel* (Altamira Press: Walnut Creek/London/New Dehli).

Clutton-Brock, J. (ed.)

1989 *The Walking Larder. Patterns of Domestication, Pastoralism, and Predation* (Unwin Hyman: London).

Collins, B. J. (ed.)

2002 *A History of the Animal World in the Ancient Near East* (Handbuch der Orientalistik I, vol. 64. Brill: Leiden/Boston/Köln).

Houlihan, P. F.

1996 *The Animal World of the Pharaohs*. (Thames and Hudson: London).

Littauer, M. A. and Crouwel, J. H.

1979 *Wheeled Vehicles and Ridden Animals in the Ancient Near East* (Handbuch der Orientalistik VII, I, 2. Brill: Leiden/Köln).

These are **not** the reading assignments, but useful reference works for your presentations and papers.

Scans of obligatory reading assignments will be placed on Moodle.

3. Grading criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:

- regular attendance and active participation during the class (10%)
- the midterm examination (40%)
- a presentation (30 minutes) on a selected topic and a paper (5-6 pages) on the same topic (50%).

4. Course policy

Students are expected to be on time for class. Latecomers will be counted as absent. Class attendance is required and repeated absence may lead to dropping a student from the course. Make-up exams will only be given to students with a valid excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences for such see the AUB “Student Code of Conduct” in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism will not only lead to a failing grade, but will lead to a Dean’s warning!

5. Course Syllabus

	Topic of the session	Reading assignments
Week 1	We 17.02.10: Introduction: aims of the course Fr 19.02.10: Why studying animals?	
Week 2	We 24.02.10: Sources: archaeozoology	Hesse/Wapnish 1997
Week 3	We 03.03.10: Sources: iconographic and textual evidence Fr 05.03.10: The beginnings: hunter/gatherer societies	Lewin 1999
Week 4	We 10.03.10: The Neolithic: the beginnings of animal domestication Fr 12.03.10: The Chalcolithic: the secondary products revolution	Meadow 1989; Uerpmann 1989 Sherratt 1983
Week 5	We 17.03.10: The later periods: urban and state societies Fr 19.03.10: Animals as food providers	Grigson 1995; LaBianca 2003
Week 6	We 24.03.10: Taboos and prohibitions Fr 26.03.10: Animals as providers of raw materials	
Week 7	We 31.03.10: Beasts of burden	
Week 8	We 07.04.10: Animals in religion Fr 09.04.10: Animals and entertainment: pets and games	Borowski 2002
Week 9	We 14.04.10: Midterm examination Fr 16.04.10: no class	
Week 10	We 21.04.10: Presentations: Dogs Sheep/goats Fr 23.04.10: Presentations: Cattle Pigs	
Week 11	We 28.04.10: Presentations: Donkeys Horses Fr 30.04.10: Presentations: Camels Cats	
Week 12	We 05.05.10: Presentations: Ducks, geese, chicken Wild birds Fr. 07.05.10: Presentations: Fishing Shells and snails	
Week 13	We 12.05.10: Presentations: gazelles and antelopes deer Fr. 14.05.10: Presentations: Lions and other felines Elephants	
Week 14	We 19.05.10: Presentations: Beekeeping The scarab Fr 21.05.10: Presentations: Snakes and scorpions Exotic animals	
Week 15	We 26.05.10: Presentations: Mythical animals (sphinxes, griffons and others) Fr. 28.05.10: Final discussion	

Advice for structuring presentations and essays:

- Describe the species you are dealing with (physical description, way of life, habitat)
- When, where, how and why was it used by humans?
- What kind of evidence do we have for the use?
- What – if any – was the symbolic meaning of the species?
- Provide a few instructive case studies
- In the paper, cite all sources (print as well as online) you have used