

## ENST 334: Carnivores Across Cultures

Spring 2024  
Tues/Thur 1:20-2:35  
326 Ho  
<https://moodle.colgate.edu>

Prof. [Ian Helfant](#) (Lawrence 302)  
OH: Mon 12:30-1:30/Wed 12:30-2:30+by appt  
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### Overview

This course explores cultural attitudes toward apex predators historically and during the Anthropocene. It focuses especially upon the significance of large carnivores in Russian and Eurasian cultures but situates these case studies in a comparative context. It utilizes the perspectives of ecocriticism, human-animal, and Russian and Eurasian studies to examine the importance of our relationships to apex predators as a way of understanding human societies and worldviews more broadly. It also explores the question of whether we can learn to live alongside large carnivores, or if their disappearance in the wild is inevitable as part of the ongoing Sixth Extinction. The course carries the Collective Challenges and Process of Writing tags in Colgate's Core Curriculum and counts toward the Arts and Humanities Area of Inquiry. It also serves as an Arts and Humanities elective for ENxx majors/minors.

### Requirements:

- Active participation in class discussions (15%)
- Advance response to one reading question, reaction to another student's posting, or new question of your own with context prior to each class via our Moodle site (20%)
- 3 to 5-page draft research statement + annotated bibliography due Friday, March 1 (15%)
- 10 to 12-page DRAFT research paper due Monday, April 1 (20%)
- 8 to 10-minute PPT/Google Slides presentation in preparation for research paper during last two (or three) weeks of class (10%)
- 12 to 15-page research paper due at 5 pm on Monday, May 6 (20%)
- If you are interested in pursuing your research projects with a partner, each component will be longer; see "Guidelines for Interlocked Research Projects" for details.
- You must adhere to the [Academic Honor Code](#)

Any student with special needs or circumstances should let me know about them ASAP. I also encourage any of you to drop in during office hours just to chat even if you don't have a specific need to address!

Links for readings in the class schedule generally take you to Proquest or other e-formats available via Colgate's libraries. Other readings will be provided either via course packet or, as permitted by copyright, in e-format. Documentary films and excerpts are available via Colgate's Kanopy service, Netflix/Amazon Prime, or YouTube. You should complete readings/viewings and respond to the Moodle prompts IN ADVANCE of the class session for which they are listed.

I will discuss strategies for utilizing laptops and e-readers in class without getting distracted early in the semester, as it's very important to our class dynamic to avoid web-browsing etc. during our time together in the classroom. We will also talk about ChatGPT and other aspects of AI!

## Class/Reading Schedule

### The Resurgence of Great White Sharks, a Captive Russian “Monster,” the Sixth Extinction, and Some Basic Definitions

- Mon., Jan 22 • Half-day schedule (1:00-1:20)  
• Course syllabus and overview
- Tues., Jan 23 • C. J. Chivers, [\*Fear on Cape Cod as Sharks Hunt Again\*](#), *The New York Times* (Oct. 20, 2021) + selection of comments (**read the article & comments BEFORE class and respond to a Moodle question**)  
• In class: personal experiences, baseline knowledge, and initial thoughts about apex predators, nature, and wild animals more generally
- Thur., Jan 25 • C. Neff, C. and R. Hueter, “[Science, Policy, and the Public Discourse of Shark “Attack”: A Proposal for Reclassifying Human–Shark Interactions](#),” *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 3 (2013): 65–73.  
• W. J. Ripple et al., “[Status and Ecological Effects of the World’s Largest Carnivores](#),” *Science* 343, 1241484 (2014).  
• in class: PPT with highlights from IPCC, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis* + IPBES, *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (2019).
- Tues., Jan. 30 • Marvin and McHugh, eds., “In it Together: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies,” in *Routledge Handbook of Human-Animal Studies* (Routledge, 2014): 1-9.  
• J. Costlow and A. Nelson, “Introduction,” in Costlow and Nelson, Eds., *Other Animals: Beyond the Human in Russian Culture and History* (U. of Pittsburgh Press, 2010): 1-11.  
• L. Zinovieva-Annibal, “The Monster,” in *The Tragic Menagerie* (Northwestern UP, 1999): 61-74.  
• J. Adamson, et al., *Keywords for Environmental Studies*. New York UP, 2016: J. Zalasiewicz et al., “Anthropocene” (14-16); G. Garrard, “Ecocriticism” (61-64), U. Heise, “Extinction” (118-121).

### In-Depth Look at an Apex Predator: Wolves

- Thur. Feb. 1 • G. Marvin, “Introduction” and Ch. 1: “Canis Lupus” in *Wolf* (Reaktion Books, 2012): 7-34 ( [ProQuest](#); also available as Kindle or paperback edition if you prefer).  
• Lynn, “[Discourse and Wolves: Science, Society, and Ethics](#),” *Journal of Society & Animals* 18.1 (2010): 75-92.
- Tues. Feb. 6 • J. Coleman, “Introduction,” in *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America* (Yale UP, 2004): 1-15 ([Proquest](#); also available as Kindle or paperback).  
• I. Helfant, “Introduction,” in *That Savage Gaze: Wolves in the Nineteenth-Century Russian Imagination* (Academic Studies Press, 2018): xi-xxvi ([ProQuest](#) or paperback).  
• In class: BBC *Planet Earth* excerpt on Alaskan wolves

- Thur. Feb. 8 • Marvin, Ch. 2: “Lupophobia” (*Proquest*: 35-80)  
 • Coleman, “Ch. 1: Howls, Snarls, and Musket Shots: Saying “This is Mine in Colonial New England,” in *Vicious*, 16-36.
- Tues. Feb. 13 • Helfant, Ch. 2: “The Rise of Hunting Societies, the Professionalization of Wolf Expertise, and the Legal Sanctioning of Predator Control with Guns and Poison,” in *That Savage Gaze*: 33-69.  
 • H. Kruuk, “Wolf,” in *Hunter and Hunted: Relationships between Carnivores and People* (Cambridge UP, 2002): 69-73.  
 • J. Linnell, “Introduction” and “The Data” in Linnell et al., *The Fear of Wolves: A Review of Wolf Attacks on Humans* (NINA-NIKU, 2002): 1-13  
 • G. Morrison and D. Alsop, “Alaska Authorities say Woman May Have Died in Wolf Attack,” *CNN* (March 12, 2010).
- Thur. Feb. 15 • Helfant, Ch. 4: “Fissures in the Flock: Wolf Hounding, the Humane Society, and the Literary Redemption of a Feared Predator,” in *That Savage Gaze*: 97-131.  
 • L. Zinovieva-Annibal, “Wolves,” in *The Tragic Menagerie*: 20-37.
- Tues. Feb. 20 • Helfant, “Conclusion,” in *That Savage Gaze*: 132-39.  
 • P. Armstrong, “The Gaze of Animals,” in N. Taylor and T. Signal, *Theorizing Animals: Re-Thinking Humanimal Relations* (Brill, 2011): 175-99.
- Thur. Feb. 22 • Marvin, Ch. 4: “Lupophilia” and Ch. 5: “Rewilding,” in *Wolf*: 119-71 and 172-81.  
 • Wilmot and Clark, Ch. 5: “Wolf Restoration: A Battle in the War over the West,” in Clark, ed., *Coexisting with Large Carnivores: Lessons from Greater Yellowstone*, 138-173.  
 • Coleman, Ch. 9: “Annihilation and Enlightenment: The Cultural Extinction of North American Wolves,” in *Vicious*: 191-225.  
 “Wolf Hunting in Siberia: Saving the Reindeer,” Al Jazeera+ Documentaries (Sept. 16, 2015).
- Sun., Feb. 25: **Visit to Wolf Mountain Nature Sanctuary in Smyrna, New York (1-4 pm)**
- Carnivores in Captivity, Zoos, “Nature” films, and the Human Gaze**
- Tues. Feb. 27 • J. Berger, “Why Look at Animals?” in *About Looking* (Pantheon, 1980): 3-28.  
 • R. Malamud, “Animals on Film: The Ethics of the Human Gaze,” *Spring* 83 (2010): 1-26.
- Thur., Feb 29 • Bagust, Phil. “‘Screen natures’: Special effects and edutainment in ‘new’ hybrid wildlife documentary.” *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies* 22.2 (April, 2008): 213–226.  
 • Excerpts from A. Fothergill, D. Attenborough, and Keith Scholey, *Our Planet: Season One*. London: BBC Video, 2019. [documentary film series]
- Fri., Mar. 1 **Draft research statement+annotated bibliography due as Google Doc by 5 pm**

- Tues., Mar. 5 • J. Horak, “Wildlife Documentaries: from Classical Forms to Reality TV,” *Film History: An International Journal* 18.4 (2006): 459–75.  
 • M. Lawson, “Does Human Planet Have to Be as Accurate as the News?” *The Guardian* (March 30, 2018).  
 • Additional excerpts from *Our Planet*

### **Power and Bondage: Eagles, Falcons, and Orcas**

- Thur., Mar. 7 • F. Fougea, *Lord of the Eagles* [documentary film on Golden Eagle hunting in Kazakhstan], 1996.  
 • T. Soma and B. Sukhee, “Altai Kazakh falconry as 'heritage tourism': the Golden Eagle Festivals of Western Mongolia,” *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* 9 (2014): 136-147.

### **March 9-17 (Spring Break)**

- Tues., Mar. 19 • ScubaFilmFactory, “Killer Whale Captures in Russia. Would Putin Save Orcas?” (2015) [15-minute YouTube video documentary with Russian collaborators]  
 • in class: continued discussion of video documentaries and popular media about animals + brainstorming for student research projects
- Thur., Mar. 21 • G. Cowperthwaite, *Blackfish* [documentary film on Seaworld’s captive orca program], 2013.  
 • R. Anderson et al., “Orca Behavior and Subsequent Aggression Associated with Oceanarium Confinement” *Animals* 6.49 (Aug., 2016).

### **Coexistence and Covetousness: Bears as Spiritual Brethren and Trophies**

- Tues., Mar. 26 • J. Costlow, “‘For the Bear to Come to Your Threshold’: Human-Bear Encounters in Late Imperial Russian Writing,” in *Other Animals*, 63-76.  
 • L. Zinovieva-Annibal, “The Bear Cubs,” in *The Tragic Menagerie*: 3-11.
- Thur. Mar. 28 • Quammen, Ch. 1: “The Food Chain of Power and Glory,” in *Monster of God*: 1-16.  
 • Quammen, Sections 39-51 of Ch. 5: “Shadow of the Nine-Toed Bear,” in *Monster of God*: 220-99.
- Mon., April 1 **Draft research paper due as Google Doc by 5 pm**
- Tues., Apr. 2 • W. Herzog, *Grizzly Man* (2005) [film available on Amazon Prime, YouTube, etc.]  
 • S. Tobias, “The human nature of Werner Herzog’s Grizzly Man,” *Resolve* (July 7, 2015).  
 • V. Plumwood, “Human Vulnerability and the Experience of Being Prey.” *Quadrant* 29.3 (March 1995): 29–34.
- Thur., Apr. 4 • World Wildlife Fund of Russia, “Polar Bears of Ryrkaypiy” (Dec. 6, 2019 video report)  
 • “Ryrkaypiy: Far-north Russian Village Overrun by Polar Bears” BBC News (Dec. 5, 2019)

- L. Di Leo, “The Polar Bear Ethic: From the Reactionary Trend in Environmental Lawmaking to the Climate Change Imperative,” *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation* 28: 347-384.
- S. Morgan, “Detailed Discussion of Polar Bears and the Laws Governing Them in the Five Arctic States.” Animal Law Legal Center. Michigan State University College of Law, January 2007.

### **Large Cats as Symbols of Nature in Peril and Harbingers of Extinction**

- Tues., Apr. 9 • Quammen, Ch. VII: “Perestroika,” in *Monster of God*: 333-398.
- Thur., Apr. 11 • J. Vaillant, excerpt from *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* (Random House, 2010): 7-31.
- World Wildlife Fund (UK): “Pavel, the Tiger Protector in Russia” (July 3, 2017 short video documentary)
- Tues., Apr. 16 • D. Western et al., “Finding Space for Wildlife Beyond National Parks and Reducing Conflict through Community-based Conservation: The Kenya Experience.” *Parks* 21.1 (March 2015): 51-62.
- L. Hazzah and S. Dolrenry, “Coexisting with Predators.” *Seminar 577* (Sept. 2007): 21-27.
- Thur., Apr. 18 • M. Paltsyn et al., “Snow Leopard Conservation in Russia: Data for Conservation Strategy for Snow Leopard in Russia 2012-2022” (World Wildlife Fund Russia, 2012).
- “Russian Snow Leopard Kittens Caught on Camera” (The Moscow Times, Oct. 6, 2020).
  - Saving Snow Leopards in Russia (BBC News, March 31, 2019).
- Tues., Apr. 23 Student presentations
- Thur., Apr. 25 Student presentations
- Tues., Apr. 30 Student presentations
- Thur., May 2 Student presentations
- Mon. May 6 **Final Research Paper due by 5 pm as Google Doc**