**FREN0750G L’Animal dans la culture contemporaine**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12-12:50**

**Wilson Hall 104**

**Thangam Ravindranathan**

**Office hours: Monday 1:30-3:30, Rochambeau 319**

**SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION**

From reports of animals stranded in conflict zones and natural calamities, to cute or clever animals cast in advertisements and popular media, from the rat of *Ratatouille* to the orca of *De rouille et d’os,* the new interest in the animal marks an age of heightened awareness of the costs, ironies, or at least increasing solitude of the human story. We will consider in this course significant representations of the animal in contemporary French and Francophone literature, film, visual art, cultural theory and media representations. We will also revisit earlier moments linking the animal to modernity, including early film/photography and urban history.

**Prerequisite: FR 600 or the equivalent**

##### This course carries WRIT credit.

**Changes to syllabus and/or additional details will be announced in class.**

### Course Materials

The following book for the course is available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore:

* **Vinciane Despret, *Penser comme un rat* (éd. Quae, 2009)**

Students are responsible for acquiring the following book:

* **Olivia Rosenthal, *Que font les rennes après noël ?* (éd. Verticales, 2010)**

All other readings will be accessible online on the Canvas/OCRA course website. Students are responsible for printing out all assigned readings and bringing them to class on the day they are to be discussed.

**Course work load and evaluation**

The course will follow a discussion format, with weekly reading assignments of 40-100 pages. In the course of the semester, students will be expected to:

* write two short papers (2-3; 3-4 pages) due respectively on 3 October and 7 November. These papers will be resubmitted with revisions on 15 Oct and 17 November. (30%)
* write a 6-8 page term paper due on 12 December (30%)
* present a short paper (15 minutes) in class on an assigned reading or film [students sign up for topics in the second and third weeks of the semester] (15%)
* attend classes regularly and engage actively in class discussions; a presentation on the work of a French/Francophone artist (10 October) or a Thanksgiving break project on a zoo or other animal-themed site/event will be considered part of this active engagement with course materials/concepts (25%)

**CALENDRIER**

**Héritages**

**09/03** Introduction

**09/05** Bestiaires I

**09/08** Bestiaires II

**09/10** Animal célèbres I: Les truies de Vaubon; la truie de Falaise (Michel Pastoureau)

**09/12** Animaux célèbres II: Le rhinocéros de Dürer; la girafe de Charles X (Pastoureau)

**Bestiaires contemporains**

**09/15** MarieDarrieussecq, “My mother told me…”; “Connaissance des singes”

**09/17** Thomas Gunzig, “koala”, “girafe”

**09/19** HélèneCixous, “Aube partagée”; “Un réfugié”

**Rat de ville, rat de laboratoire**

**09/22** *Ratatouille* (film d’animation, Brad Bird, 2007)

**09/24** Blek le Rat; Vinciane Despret, *Penser comme un rat I*

**09/26** Despret, *Penser comme un rat* II

**L’Animal et l’âge industriel**

**09/29** ÉricBaratay, *Bêtes de somme* p. 67-117

**10/01** Précurseurs du cinéma : Étienne-Jules Marey et Eadweard Muybridge

**10/03** *Bovines, ou la vraie vie des vaches* (film documentaire, Emmanuel Gras, 2012)

***\*\*Rendre Devoir 1\*\****

**L’animal et l’humain**

**10/06** PatrickModiano, *Des inconnues* (III)

**10/08** AAO(Art Orienté Objet) et Marion-Laval Jeantet, “Que le cheval vive en moi”

**10/10** ROA, artiste graffeur (+ \*\****Présentations***\*\*)

**10/15** Jean-Christophe Bailly, “Le Visible est le caché”; “Voies”

***\*\*Rendre la version corrigée du Devoir 1\*\****

**10/17** Olivia Rosenthal, *Que font les rennes après noël ?*  p.13-59

**10/20** Rosenthal, *Que font les rennes après noël ?* p.63-123

**10/22** Rosenthal, *Que font les rennes après noël ?* p.127-168

**10/24** Rosenthal, *Que font les rennes après noël ?* p. 171-211

**Compagnons de guerre**

**10/27** Éric Baratay, *Bêtes des tranchées* p. 59-90; 101-113

**10/29** Baratay**,** *Bêtes des tranchées* p. 117-162

**10/31** L’animal dans les conflits contemporains (presse)

**Animaux en captivité**

**11/03** Baratay/Hardouin-Fugier, *Zoos: Histoire des jardins zoologiques* p. 213-248

**11/05** Baratay/Hardouin-Fugier, *Zoos* p. 249-292

**11/07** JohnBerger, “Pourquoi regarder les animaux?”

***\*\*Rendre Devoir 2\*\****

**11/10** *De rouille et d’os* (film, Jacques Audiard, 2012)

**11/12** *De rouille et d’os* vs. *Blackfish* (film documentaire, Gabriela Cowperthwaite, 2013)

**11/14** Florence Burgat, “À quoi la question ‘*qui* sont les animaux’ engage-t-elle ?”

**11/17** *Nénette* (film documentaire, Nicolas Philibert, 2010)

***\*\*Rendre la version corrigée du Devoir 2\*\****

**11/19** Préhistoire de *Nénette* (*Histoire naturelle* de Buffon, etc.)

**11/21** CharlesBaudelaire traducteur de E.A. Poe : “Double assassinat dans la rue Morgue”

**11/24** Code Animal at autres histoires de zoos

**----------------------** *Thanksgiving ------------------*

**12/01** Zoos I:Présentations

**12/03** Zoos II:Présentations

**12/05** Conclusion(s)

***\*\*Devoir final à rendre le 12 décembre\*\****