

Philosophy 246  
Animal Minds and Human Morals  
Winter 2013

Department of Philosophy  
University of Regina

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00–2:00 pm. If you can't make it at that time please send me an email and we will make other arrangements.

## About the course:

What ethical and legal obligations do we have towards nonhuman animals? What should our attitude be about factory farming and the use of animals in medical research? What are the moral implications of attributing certain mental states to animals? Do humans have duties toward animals and how seriously should we take the interests of animals in our decision making? *Speciesism* is the view that human beings have an inherent right to dominate nonhuman species and use them for human ends. We will examine critics as well as proponents of the morality of speciesism. This involves exploring several areas of philosophy: Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Biology. We will apply these areas of philosophy in examining the use of nonhuman sentient beings in Agriculture, Medicine, Biology and Psychology. This will raise issues concerning the nature of moral and legal rights, and whether nonhuman animals should have them, and the nature and adequacy of current legal protections for animals, as well as the relationships between human rights, animal rights and environmental rights.

## Texts

1. **In Defense of Animals**, edited by Peter Singer, Blackwell Publishing (2006).
2. **Animal Rights, Human Wrongs; An Introduction to Moral Philosophy**, by Tom Regan, Rowman & Littlefield (2003).

3. **The Ethics of What We Eat**, by Peter Singer and Jim Mason, Rodale (2006).

## Requirements

1. Mid-term 20%, February 28.
2. Term Paper 30%, due April 4.
3. Final, 40%
4. Participation and regular attendance, 10%

## Additional Information

- Further details concerning the course requirements will be provided on my web page. The web page address (URL) is:

<http://phil.uregina.ca/korte>

(**NOTICE: THERE IS NO ‘www’ IN THE URL!** You can also get to this web page by going to the web information of the Faculty of Arts.)

- The web pages for handouts, course syllabus, notices, and assignments, will be password protected and also require a username. I will give you the password and the username in class.
- Unless you have another viewer with which to view PDF files, please download **Adobe Acrobat Reader**. It is free and is available for any platform.
- Please view my web page with **Firefox**; you can download it for free. My web page also works in Safari. Although it passes the **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)** validation test, it may not be compatible with Internet Explorer or other browsers that lag behind the international W3C standards.
- Please feel free to email me at

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*Please make sure to begin the subject entry of the email with: phil246.*