PHI 600: A Phenomenological Reading of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*

A. Kim

Monday 2:00-5:00

Our main goals will be to understand the aim(s) of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*; its method(s); and its conclusion(s). Our secondary focus will be to reflect critically on the *Metaphysics* and our interpretive practice from a phenomenological point of view. This may mean: using phenomenological concepts (many of which have ancient roots) as an interpretive framework; reading the text as proto-phenomenology; treating the text itself as a kind of phenomenon to be phenomenologically analyzed. Texts by Heidegger on Aristotle will be assigned in addition to the *Metaphysics* and standard secondary literature. Time permitting, the course will end with a detailed examination of Book Θ, along with Heidegger’s interpretation of Θ 1-3. A basic grasp of Plato and the pre-Socratics will be assumed, as well as familiarity with phenomenology.

PHI 615: The Animal

Elizabeth Grosz (e.grosz@duke.edu)

Thursday 3:00-6:00 & Friday 1:00-4:00

Course Description: This course addresses the question of how the animal is thought in Western discourse and what role it plays in our understanding of the human. It focuses on the concept of the animal in key figures in patriarchal and feminist thought, and how this concept provides us with an understanding not only of the human but also what may be beyond the human, the post-human. We will look at the relevant texts of those thinkers who have made major contributions to how we understand reason and language, often considered uniquely human characteristics – including Aristotle, Descartes, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Derrida, Deleuze and Guattari, Irigaray and Kofman; we will also explore some of the key writings of ethologists and those who elaborated the worlds of animals – including Charles Darwin, Jakob von Uexkull, Konrad Lorenz, Karl von Frisch and others. In doing so we will explore the worlds of animals and humans and the role of sexuality in the elaboration of animal life.

Format: The exact structure of weekly seminars will be discussed in the first few weeks of class. But the goal will be to maximize focused student discussion while paying close attention to key texts.

Assessment: For assessment, students are required to submit two pieces of course-work, the first, a short outline, proposal or plan of your essay, 2-3 pages long, due half way through the course on-- IN CLASS; and the other, a long essay which develops this proposal, 18-20 pages long (double spaced, with
bibliography and footnotes) due on ----- IN CLASS. Students are encouraged, in consultation with me, to devise and research their own topics relevant to the course and its reading resources.

**Required Reading:** All the readings are available for download from SAKAI.

**Recommended Additional Readings:**

Giorgio Agamben *The Open*


Brett Buchanan  *Onto-Ethologies. The Animal Environments of Uexküll, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Deleuze*

Matthew Calarco and Peter Atterton (eds) *Animal Philosophy*

Charles Darwin *On the Origin of Species*

Charles Darwin *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*

Gilles Deleuze and F Guattari  *A Thousand Plateaus*

Jacques Derrida  *The Animal that Therefore I am*

Deborah Gordon  *Ants at Work*

Elizabeth Grosz  *Chaos, Territory, Art*

Martin Heidegger  *The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics*

Lise Irigaray  *Sexes and Genealogies*

Luce Irigaray  *Thinking the Difference*

Sarah Kofman  *The Enigma of Woman*

Leonard Lawlor  *This is Not Sufficient. An Essay on Animality and Human Nature in Derrida*

Timothy Lenoir  *The Strategy of Life. Teleology and Mechanics in Nineteenth Century German Biology*

Konrad Lorenz  *On Aggression*

Maurice Merleau-Ponty  *Nature*

Friedrich Nietzsche  *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

Friedrich Nietzsche  *The Will to Power*

*Semiotica* (Special Issue of the Journal on Uexküll), 134,1/4, 2001

Irene Pepperberg  *Alex and Me*

Irene Pepperberg  *The Alex Papers*
Below is a list of topics for seminars. Some classes will take more than one week. Please note that all materials under “Reading” are available for download from ----. Many of the texts under “Additional Reading” are longer pieces, not easily photocopied. They are suggestions for further reading that may also be useful for your essay.

Topic 1. Introduction. Animals from the Ancient Greeks to the Rise of Modern Philosophy

Reading: Aristotle excerpts from *The History of Animals/The Parts of Animals*
Rene Descartes excerpts from Chapter 5 *The Discourse on Method*
Hans Jonas “Philosophical Aspects of Darwinism” from *The Phenomenon of Life*

Topic 2. The Origins of the Scientific Study of Animals: from Linnaeus to Geoffroy

Reading: No set reading

Additional Reading: Timothy Lenoir *The Strategy of Life: Teleology and Mechanics in Nineteenth Century German Biology*

Topic 3: Darwin and the Diversity of Animal Species

Reading: Charles Darwin “The Struggle for Existence” (Excerpts from *The Origin of Species*) eds T Glick and D Cohen

Additional Reading: Charles Darwin *The Origin of Species*

Topic 4: Sexual Selection

Reading: Charles Darwin Excerpts from “Selection in Relation to Sex” eds T Glick and D Cohen

Additional Reading: Charles Darwin *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*

Topic 4: Nietzsche and the Animal

Reading: Friedrich Nietzsche “O My Animals” in *Animal Philosophy* eds P. Atterton and M Calarco
Alphonso Lingis “Nietzsche and Animals” *Animal Philosophy* ibid.

Additional Reading: Nietzsche *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
Martin Heidegger “Who is Nietzsche’s Zarathustra?” *Nietzsche Vols.1 & 2*
Vanessa Lemm Nietzsche’s Animal Philosophy
Topic 5: Uexküll and the World of Animals

Reading: Jakob von Uexküll “A Stroll through the Worlds of Animals and Men”
   “The New Concept of Umwelt: A Link Between Science and the Humanities” Semiotica 134,1/4
   “An Introduction to Umwelt”, ibid.

Additional Reading: Giorgio Agamben “Umwelt” and “Tick” from The Open
   Brett Buchanan Onto-Ethologies. The Animal Environments of Uexküll, Heidegger, Merleau-
   Ponty and Deleuze
   Semiotica (Special Issue of the Journal on Uexküll), 134,1/4, 2001

Topic 6: Ethology: Birds, Bees and Ants

Reading: Karl von Frisch “The Bee’s Mental Capacity” The Dancing Bees
   “The Language of Bees” Bees, Their Vision, Chemical Senses and Language
   Deborah Gordon “In the Society of Ants” Ants at Work
   Irene Pepperberg “In Search of King Solomon’s Ring” The Alex Studies
   Donald Griffin “A Parrot Who Means What He Says” Animal Minds

Additional Reading: Irene Pepperberg Alex and Me
   Irene Pepperberg The Alex Papers
   Konrad Lorenz On Aggression

Topic 7: Phenomenology: Heidegger/ Levinas/ Merleau-Ponty

Reading: Martin Heidegger “Beginning of the Metaphysical Questioning…”,
   Chs 2-4 The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics
   Heidegger “Two Essential Steps in Biology…” ibid
   Emmanuel Levinas “The Paradox of Morality” The Provocation of Levinas eds R Bernasconi and
   D Wood.
   Levinas “The Name of a Dog; or Natural Rights” Animal Philosophy eds P Atterton and M
   Calarco
   Maurice Merleau-Ponty “Animality: The Study of Animal Behavior” Nature. Course Notes from
   the Collège de France

Additional Reading: Jacques Derrida “I Don’t Know Why We Are Doing This’ The
   Animal that Therefore I Am
Topic 8: Derrida, Deconstruction and the Animal


**Additional Reading**: Jacques Derrida *The Animal That Therefore I am*

Derrida “‘Eating Well’ or The Calculation of the Subject” *Points. Interviews* 1974-1994

Leonard Lawlor *This is Not Sufficient. An Essay on Animality and Human Nature in Derrida*

Topic 9: Deleuze and Guattari and Becoming-Animal

**Reading**: Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari “‘Becoming-Intense, Becoming-Animal, Becoming-Imperceptible…” *A Thousand Plateaus*

Deleuze and Guattari “Of the Refrain” *ibid*

**Additional Reading**: Deleuze “Spinoza and Us”, *Spinoza. Practical Philosophy*

Elizabeth Grosz *Chaos, Territory, Art*

Topic 10: Women, Animals and Others…

**Reading**: Luce Irigaray “A Chance to Live” *Thinking the Difference*

Irigaray “Animal Compassion” *Animal Philosophy* eds.M. Calarco and P Atterton

Sarah Kofman “The Narcissistic Woman: Freud and Girard” *Diacritics* September, 1980

**Additional Reading**: Irigaray “Human Nature is Always Two” *I Love to You*

Irigaray “Divine Love” *Sexes a*

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**PHI 630: Critical Phenomenology**

**Anne O’Byrne**

**Monday 6:00-9:00**

Phenomenology is a practice of rigorous description, and it has produced radical re-descriptions of the world and reshaped our understanding of phenomenon, logos and world. Yet can it be a critical practice? Can it generate norms, or strategies, or motivation for action? Or has it been critical all along? This seminar will pursue these questions along two paths. 1) We will study examples of critical phenomenology by thinkers such as Arendt, Jonas and contemporary self-described critical phenomenologists such as Lisa Guenther, Alia Al-Saji, and Matthias Fritsch.

2) We will also turn to reflections on the phenomenological method selected from the history of phenomenology, including the work of Husserl, Scheler, Stein, and Heidegger. On both paths, we will concentrate on moments when the authors address questions of method and critique.
PHI 631: Seminar in Analytic Philosophy

Jeff Edwards

Tuesday 6:00-9:00

(1) We begin this seminar on ethical theory by (briefly) clarifying some features of the historical backdrop to contemporary analytic ethics: sentimentalist and rationalist (or intuitional) approaches to the foundations of ethics; and Henry Sidgwick’s intuitionally grounded utilitarianism. (2) We consider some key components of the seminal work of 20th century analytic ethics, namely, G. E. Moore’s *Principia Ethica* (Cambridge). (3) We then consider W. D. Ross’s *The Right and the Good* (Oxford), paying special attention to the arguments against Moore’s “ideal utilitarianism” that Ross presented from the standpoint of his intuitionist deontology. (4) We make a very big leap to central concerns of present-day ethical theory by examining Derek Parfit’s *On What Matters* (Oxford), paying special attention to the notion of “Kantian consequentialism” endorsed by Parfit (and disputed by his interlocutors). (5) Time permitting, we round off of the semester by making an incursion into the domain of contemporary political philosophy: we discuss the (Marxist) egalitarian criticism of Rawlsian theories of justice developed in Jerry (G. A.) Cohen’s *Rescuing Justice & Equality* (Harvard).