

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2017-18 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	Law 381 Animals, Culture and the Law
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Maneesha Deckha
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Fall 2017
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See Schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES</b>	None

### **BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar will explore the relationship between nonhuman and human animals, focusing on the legal and ethical issues raised by the legal status of animals as property. In particular, we will look at how recent technological and cultural developments have redrawn the human/nonhuman boundary, implicating what it means to be “human” and “animal”, and resulting in a renewed questioning of the current scope of legal personhood. Specific themes and topics that will be explored include: 1) the current jurisprudence characterizing animals as property and the specific legal regulation of animals as food, research tools, entertainers, companions and carriers/symbols of human cultural and religious traditions; 2) various western philosophical positions on animals that animate the law; 3) theoretical challenges to animal subordination and commodification from deontological, utilitarian, feminist, postcolonial, indigenous, queer, and poststructuralist traditions; 4) the types of legal and ethical alternatives proposed to animals’ current status as property; and 5) the imbrication of cultural and legal ideas about animals, animality and species with the social constructs of gender, race, class, and ability and the connections between speciesism, sexism, racism, capitalism, imperialism and ableism. Issues of difference, power and hierarchies organized along gender, race, class, culture, ability, and, most prominently, species will be integral to this course.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

An active learning model of pedagogy will be the norm in the seminar. Class time will consist of discussion, small group work and other interactive and reflective exercises, with limited lectures. Students are expected to complete readings and any other preparatory assignments before the start of class and to actively participate in class, including being open to interactive learning.

### **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Student learning will be assessed by a combination of: a) a journal log of approximately 15 pages worth 15%; b) class participation worth 5%; and c) two essays of between 10 to 12 pages each based primarily on assigned readings worth 40% each.

Students may opt to write their Major Research Paper in the course instead of completing the two shorter essays. Please note this assessment is currently tentative and subject to change.

*June 2017*

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<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services ([lawmaass@uvic.ca](mailto:lawmaass@uvic.ca))

