



*Expanding International Understanding
of freshman students using their
interest in conflicting roles of animals in
societies of the world*

M. Russell¹, H. Frigola², M. Douglas²

Purdue University

¹Department of Animal Sciences

²Department of Anthropology



Conflicting Roles of Animals in Societies of the World

- This innovative approach expands student international awareness in a university-wide course.
- University Honors College limits freshman classes to 20 students of diverse disciplines and perspectives.
- The University provides incentives for creation and teaching cross-college freshman classes.



Conflicting Roles of Animals in Societies of the World



- learner-centered, group discussion-based student engagement of factors affecting the use of animals in societies of the world:
 - Domestication, physiology & morphology, culture, religion, climate and topography, government, natural resources, socioeconomic
- sustainable animal agriculture and uses through progressive written and presentation responsibilities.

“International Understanding electives”.

- Purdue Agriculture B.S. degree students are predominately (84%) Indiana residents
- They are required to complete nine credits of International Understanding from an approved list (FL accepted)
- Purdue strongly encourages international semester exchanges and study abroad courses (40%), but more international awareness is needed in on-campus courses.



Learning Objectives:

- To broaden student's understanding of the roles animals play in cultures around the world
- To understand the forms of animal agricultural systems around the world
- To understand the factors which affect the development of animals' role
- To critically analyse ethical and moral debates of animal use in society
- To prepare students to interact with people who use animals in way different than themselves

A partnership between Animal Sciences and Anthropology

- 75 freshmen (4 cohorts) from 18 different majors across the entire university. Topics are integrated to explore societal tensions and current issues surrounding animal-human interactions.





Class Content

Student Use & Society topics

Ethnographic Documentaries

- Bugs for Breakfast
- Pets for Profit
- Saltmen of Tibet
- Afghan Nomads: Maladar
- The Masai Today
- Ladaki Nomad Shepherds
- Make Prayers to the Raven

Saudi Aramco World articles

& Current Issue topics

Issue DVD's

- Buffalo Wars
- Food Inc.
- Bullfight: La Fiesta Brava
- TV: 20/20; 60 minutes

Textbooks chapters

Daily newspapers

& even PPT lectures

A partnership between Animal Sciences and Anthropology

- Lecture, ethnographic documentaries, current events,
- Weekly narrative reflection papers,
- Use & Society outline, paper, and presentation
- Current issue outline, paper, and presentation
- assessed using the Purdue Agriculture writing and presentation rubrics based on Blooms' Taxonomy.



A partnership between Animal



Maximizing Engagement through discussion

- Papers critically evaluate ethical and moral dilemmas that affect animals, people, and the environment. Both student paper topics are presented in class and the student-led and facilitated discussions follow.



Assessment of Learning Objectives

	Pre-Level (Jan)	Post-Level (now)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N = 73, $p < .05$ $p < .01$; 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To broaden student's understanding of the roles 	3.2	4.8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the forms of animal agricultural systems 	2.6	4.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the factors which affect the role 	3.1	4.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To critically analyse ethical and moral debates 	3.4	4.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare students to interact with different uses than themselves 	2.4	4.9

Qualitative assessment responses

- Using four specific topics, including at least two “Use & Society” presentations, reflect on your understanding of how **five different factors affect the role of animals**.
- Incorporate four student “Current Issue” presentations into your explanation of how **four different sources of conflict** are involved in determining the use of animals.
- Using two different topics, discuss the advantages/disadvantages of **the use of animals being decided by:** individual owner/user; government officials; industry organizations; or general public/consumers.

Qualitative assessment responses

- Whiling demonstrating your knowledge of three different systems of agriculture, discuss how our world population can **produce the food and specifically the animal protein** needed in 2050.
- Using **two ethical or moral issues related** to animal use, discuss how you would actually interact with people who use animals differently than you are accustomed.
- Compare responses before and after, use a Word Cloud, or Content Analysis to demonstrate change.

Questions?

