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

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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.
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
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- 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.
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- Current issue outline, paper, and presentation

assessed using the Purdue Agriculture writing and presentation rubrics based on Blooms' Taxonomy.
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

- N = 73, p < .05, p < .01; Pre-Level (Jan)--------Post-Level (now)
- To broaden student’s understanding of the roles 3.2 4.8
- To understand the forms of animal agricultural systems 2.6 4.1
- To understand the factors which affect the role 3.1 4.9
- To critically analyse ethical and moral debates 3.4 4.1
- 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?