

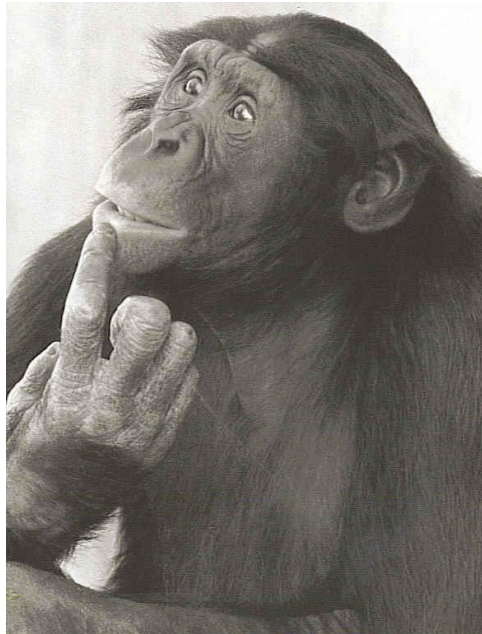
Philosophical Issues Concerning Animals

Phil 3805 MW 11

Professor Robert Lurz

Fall 2016

M,W: 11:00 AM -12:15 PM



This course examines the philosophical issue on the mental and moral status of nonhuman animals. Some of the issues that will be covered are:

- What kinds of thought and consciousness are animals capable of?
- Can animals think, have thoughts, beliefs, reasons?
- Can animals reason?
- Are animals capable of having knowledge of their own minds and the minds of other animals?
- Is it even possible for us to ever know what an animal is thinking or feeling? Can science ever tell us these things?
- Do some animals have free will?
- Are animals capable of doing things for moral reasons?
- What kinds of moral obligations do we have to animals, and why?
- Do animals have natural rights?
- Should we give some animals legal rights? Which animals? Which rights?

These issues will be examined through classical and contemporary writings in philosophy. This is an excellent course for philosophy majors and minors, students in psychology and biology, and students generally interested in examining these issues.