



**IDEALISTS. REALISTS.
CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE.**

ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY

ANM 5431

Spring 2024

SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION

(updated Jan. 15, 2024)

Course Description

Students will learn how to strategically and effectively advance protections for animals on local, state, federal, and international levels through various policy levers. The course will explore the intersection of animal protection with other social justice movements, the roles of animals in society, and emerging developments in animal protection policy.

Course Materials

You do not need to purchase any materials for this course. I will make all assigned materials available to you electronically at no charge.

Class Meetings and Learning Management Systems

We meet on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:10 to 3:25PM.**

Canvas is the primary learning management system for this course. I will provide updates to the syllabus, reading assignments, and more via Canvas.

Classes will be livestreamed and recorded via Microsoft Teams at [this link](#), which is also available on the Canvas home page. Livestreaming class does not count as class attendance under the VLGS Attendance Policy, but it is nevertheless the next-best option if you are unable to be physically present. Please note that I am not able to pay attention to the chat in Teams while teaching.

Please make sure you are familiar with and able to access this course on *both* Teams and Canvas.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to develop pragmatic animal protection policy goals and strategic plans for achieving those goals.
- Students will be able to engage in animal protection policy research, analysis, and problem solving.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively and persuasively orally and in writing to advance policy change that furthers animal protection.
- Students will be able to analyze the intersection of animal protection policy efforts with other social justice movement efforts, identify coalition opportunities, and approach coalitions sensitively.

Class Preparation Expectations

Pursuant to [VLGS's Credit Hours Policy](#), in addition to in-class time, for this three-credit class **you are expected to spend at least six hours a week preparing for class**. That work outside of class time may include, but is not limited to, reading, watching, or listening to assigned materials; reading, watching, or listening to supplemental materials; completing assignments; attending office hours; and meeting with Academic Success Program mentors and/or the Writing Specialist about work for this course. **If you find yourself spending significantly more than six hours a week preparing for class, please reach out to me as soon as possible.**

Inclusive Classroom

In this class, we will work together to develop a learning community that is inclusive and respectful. Our diversity may be reflected by differences in race, ethnicity, culture, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socioeconomic background, and myriad other social identities and life experiences. We will encourage and appreciate expressions of different ideas, opinions, and beliefs so that conversations and interactions that could potentially be divisive turn, instead, into opportunities for development.

Attendance Policy

VLGS requires regular and punctual attendance in all classes.

As this is a residential class, attendance must be in person. Joining the course online does not count as attendance, though I nevertheless encourage it to support your learning if there are times that you are not able to attend in person.

Missing classes or arriving late to class may also impact your participation and professionalism grade in this class (see Grading below).

VLGS [Academic Regulations](#) provide that “[s]tudents who are absent from twenty (20%) percent of the regularly scheduled classes . . . shall be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F-Wd.” **Accordingly, if you miss this class six times you will be automatically withdrawn with a grade of F-Wd.**

If you have questions about VLGS's attendance policy, contact Vice Dean for Students Professor Joe Brennan, jbrennan@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1244.

You are responsible for monitoring your compliance with this policy.

Assessment

I will assess your grade for this class as follows:

- **Welcome Survey, due Jan. 17 (5%)**
- **Issue Memo, due Jan. 31 (10%)**
- **Current Policy Memo, due Feb. 28 (15%)**
- **Mid-semester Evaluation, due Mar. 11 (5%)**
- **Current Policy Memo Second Draft, due Apr. 10 (15%)**
- **In-class Presentation, Apr. 22 and 24 (15%)**
- **Final Evaluation, Apr. 29 (5%)**
- **Policy Proposal Memo, May 9 (20%)**
- **Participation and Professionalism (10%):** Regular and punctual attendance, demonstrated engagement with assigned materials, and respectful engagement with your peers. Absences, tardiness, and low class participation will impact your grade. In addition to being physically present in class sessions, I expect students to read/watch/listen to all assigned materials before class and to come to class prepared to engage in active, thoughtful, and productive discussion.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Publicly available generative AI built on large-language models will be instrumental to how we research, work, think, and advocate. Except for built-in spelling and grammar checks (this does *not* include tools such as Grammarly), if you utilize generative AI, you must disclose either by separate document or in a clearly defined section of your submitted work product:

- a list of all generative AI tools used in the preparation of your work product and, for each, a log of prompts or other user input;
- whether you incorporated generative AI responses into your work product directly (by reproduction), by paraphrase, or by adoption of recommendation or suggestions; and
- a brief description of why and how you edited the AI-generated output or adopted the recommendation of the AI to arrive at your final work product.

I reserve the right to ask you questions or otherwise evaluate your understanding of any content and the process by which you created your work product. You will have advance notice of and an opportunity to prepare for any such evaluation. If you refuse or otherwise fail to participate in such evaluation absent administrative accommodation or excuse, your grade may be impacted.

Undisclosed use of generative AI is considered plagiarism, and subject to honor code investigation and enforcement.

Accommodations

Vermont Law and Graduate School encourages students with disabilities, visible or hidden, to seek appropriate accommodations. If you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation, please review [The Vermont Law and Graduate School Disability Policy](#). At that link you will also find an online [Disability Accommodation Request Form](#). If you have questions about accommodations, please contact the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Lisa Ryan, lryan@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1079.

Office Hours

My office hours are by appointment and Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5PM, Debevoise 212. I will post sign-up sheets for 15-minute slots during these times outside Debevoise 212.

Additional Support

- VLGS's [Academic Success Program](#) (ASP) provides various forms of support, including student mentors who are available to meet with you in the ASP office.
- VLGS's [Cornell Library](#) has friendly librarians who are happy to help support your research endeavors. You can contact them at reference@vermontlaw.edu.
- You have permission to meet with a VLGS Writing Specialist about your writing for this class prior to submitting it. To schedule a meeting, email WritingSpecialist@vermontlaw.edu with:
 - o three concrete, thirty-minute times you are available to meet via Teams,
 - o a description of the writing project at issue,
 - o specific questions you would like to discuss and
 - o your intention for the writing and any pertinent deadlines.

No later than forty-eight hours prior to your meeting, you can email up to five pages of writing for review

Activation Acknowledgement

This class will address difficult and sensitive topics. Course materials and discussions may prove challenging and may activate past traumatic experiences. It is well documented that witnessing trauma endured by other beings—including secondhand witnessing through readings and other observations—can cause traumatic effects on the observer, sometimes referred to as vicarious trauma.

I have done my best to avoid gratuitous exposure to upsetting information and to limit such information to that which is essential to understanding the topics we discuss in class. I will also aim to do my best to provide warnings when we approach particularly graphic information or materials, and ask that you do the same in your presentations.

Please make sure to take care of yourself and each other, as that is an important component of studying and working with such information—and an important skill to develop as an advocate.

I recommend the following resources:

- [Taimie L. Bryant, *Trauma, Law, and Advocacy for Animals*, 1 J. ANIMAL L. & ETH. 63 \(2006\).](#)

- [PATTRICE JONES, AFTERSHOCK: CONFRONTING TRAUMA IN A VIOLENT WORLD: A GUIDE FOR ACTIVISTS AND THEIR ALLIES \(2007\).](#)

VLGS's mental health clinician, Nancy Stone, nstone@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1216, is also available to meet with you.

Course Outline and Assignments

These assignments are tentative. I will almost certainly make updates as we proceed. Most will take one class period, but some may extend beyond that. I will note modifications as we proceed. Be sure to monitor announcements in class and via Canvas for updates to the reading assignments and other announcements. Note that some of the assigned materials are readings while others are videos or podcasts.

Class No.	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading / Viewing / Listening	Work Product Due (all work product is due at noon unless otherwise indicated)
1	Wed., Jan. 17	INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS AND PUBLIC POLICY	Tony Milligan, <i>The Political Turn in Animal Rights</i>, 1 POL. & ANIMALS 6 (2015). Che Green, <i>Animal Advocacy by Numbers</i>, FAUNALYTICS (July 15, 2016). Laws that Protect Animals, ANIMAL LEGAL DEF. FUND.	WELCOME SURVEY
2	Mon., Jan. 22	THINKING THROUGH ANIMALS AND PUBLIC POLICY	Kim Stallwood, <i>Are We Smart Enough to Know When to Take the Political Turn for Animals?</i>, in ETHICAL AND POLITICAL APPROACHES TO NONHUMAN ANIMAL ISSUES 275-303 (Andrew Woodhall & Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade eds. 2017). Jerry Mitchell, <i>Sorting Out Animal Policy: Ideas, Problems, and Solutions</i>, 4 INT'L REV. PUB. POL'Y 341 (2022).	

3	Wed., Jan. 24	HISTORY OF ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p>Margo DeMello, ANIMALS AND SOCIETY 402-11 (2012).</p> <p>Bernard Unti & Andrew N. Rowan, <i>A Social History of Postwar Animal Protection</i>, in THE STATE OF ANIMALS 21-37 (Deborah J. Salem & Andrew N. Rowan eds., 2001).</p> <p>Norm Phelps, <i>History of the Animal Rights Movement</i>, YOUTUBE (Apr. 10, 2013) (from the Animal Rights 2012 National Conference).</p> <p>Attend Animal Law Society presentation by Danie Palermo (JD/MELP'21), Regulatory Specialist, Humane Society Legislative Fund, 5-6PM Hoff Lounge or on Teams, or watch the recording.</p>	
4	Mon., Jan. 29	ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY AND OTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS	<p>Animal & Social Justice Fundamentals, Faunalytics.</p> <p>Delcianna J. Winders & Elan Abrell, <i>Slaughterhouse Workers, Animals, and the Environment: The Need for a Rights-Centered Regulatory Framework That Recognizes Interconnected Interests</i>, 23 HARV. HEALTH & HUM. RTS. J. 21 (2021).</p>	CERTIFICATION OF WATCHING DANIE PALERMO'S PRESENTATION.
5	Wed., Jan. 31	ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY AND OTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS CONT'D	<p>The Animal Rights Show, <i>Challenging Racism in the Animal Rights Movement</i> (Jan. 30, 2023).</p> <p>Michelle Rojas-Soto, <i>Oppression Without Hierarchy: Racial Justice and Animal Advocacy</i>, SENTIENT MEDIA (Oct. 15, 2020).</p>	ISSUE MEMO

6	Mon., Feb. 5	ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY ADVOCACY – GETTING STARTED	<p><u>Hugh McNamee, <i>Use of the Legislative Process in Protecting Animals, in THE HUMANE MOVEMENT</i> (R.J. Chenowith ed. 1966).</u></p> <p><u>COLLER ANIMAL LAW FORUM, ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS: A GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 4-18, 31-52 (2023).</u></p> <p><u>Casey Bond, <i>Getting Started in Legislative Advocacy</i>, FAUNALYTICS (Oct. 11, 2023).</u></p>	
7	Wed., Feb. 7	LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING	<p><u>GEORGE W. KUNEY & DONNA C. LOOPER, LEGAL DRAFTING IN A NUTSHELL, Chapter 3 (5th ed. 2021).</u> (you will need to log in to your West Academic account to access this)</p> <p><u>Deborah Beth Medows, <i>A Beginner’s Guide to Legislative Drafting</i>, HARV. J. LEG. ONLINE (2014).</u></p>	
8	Mon., Feb. 12	LOBBYING 101	<p><u>Politics, Policy, and Lobbying Skills Profile, Animal Advocacy Careers.</u></p> <p><u>Lobbying and Influencing Elected Officials, Effective Activist.</u></p> <p><u>FACE-TO-FACE WITH CONGRESS: BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS, CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION (2014).</u></p> <p><u>HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CITIZEN LOBBYIST, HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S.</u></p>	

9	Wed., Feb. 14	LOBBY REPORTING	<p>U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, 2022 LOBBYING DISCLOSURE: OBSERVATIONS ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS 1-31 (Mar. 2023).</p> <p>NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS, LOBBYIST ACTIVITY REPORT REQUIREMENTS (updated May 15, 2018). (skim)</p> <p>Open Secrets, Agribusiness Sector Summary.</p> <p>Tim Murphy, <i>This Former Cocaine Kingpin Is Lobbying Congress to Let Him Keep His Cheetahs (and Liger)</i>, MOTHER JONES (May 7, 2014).</p>	
10	Mon., Feb. 19	LOCAL ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p>Passing Local Legislation: Retail Pet Sale Ban, ANIMAL LEGAL DEF. FUND (Apr. 27, 2023).</p> <p>BANNING RETAIL SALES OF WILD ANIMALS: A TOOLKIT FOR ANIMAL ADVOCATES, WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION.</p> <p>Georgia D. Reid, <i>How Land Use Law Can Provide a Local Solution to Exotic Animal Captivity</i>, 21 N.Y. ZONING LAW & PRAC. REP. (May/June 2021).</p>	
11	Wed., Feb. 21	ASSESSING LOCAL ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p>Jo Anderson, <i>Local Action for Animals as a Stepping Stone To State Protections</i>, FAUNALYTICS (Fall 2022).</p>	
12	Mon., Feb. 26	STATE ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p>Strengthening Laws that Protect Animals and Striking Down Laws Hurting Animals, Animal Legal Def. Fund.</p> <p>Brooks Animal Law Digest, Legislation. (skim)</p>	

			Select one bill from the above sources, read its text, and come to class prepared to discuss it. Massachusetts Animal Protection Ban Factsheet.	
13	Wed., Feb. 28	VERMONT ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	H.626, 2024 Leg. (Vt. 2024). Fact Sheet - H. 626, An Act Related to Animal Welfare, Vermont Humane Federation.	CURRENT POLICY MEMO
	Mar. 3-8		SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
14	Mon., Mar. 11	STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES	States with Initiative or Referendum, BALLOTPEDIA. (skim) Treatment of Animals on the Ballot, BALLOTPEDIA. (skim) Nancy Perry, The Oregon Bear and Cougar Initiative: A Look at the Initiative Process, 2 ANIMAL LAW 203 (1996). Jonathan R. Lovvorn & Nancy V. Perry, California Proposition 2: A Watershed Moment for Animal Law, 15 ANIMAL LAW 149 (2009). Animal Research, Animal Rights, Ballot Initiatives: Past, Present, Future?, SPEAKING OF RESEARCH (Dec. 6, 2018).	MID-SEMESTER EVALUATION
15	Wed., Mar. 13	BALLOT INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT	Laura Duffy, Historical Farmed Animal Welfare Ballot Initiatives, RETHINKING PRIORITIES (June 20, 2023).	

16	Mon., Mar. 18	FEDERAL ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY – with guests Carole and Howard Baskin	<p><u>Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D) & Rep. Vern Buchanan (R), <i>A Unifying Cause in Congress: Animal Protection, THE HILL</i> (May 15, 2017).</u></p> <p><u>HUMANE SCORECARD: THE 118TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND (FALL 2023).</u></p> <p><u>H.R. 263, Big Cat Public Safety Act, 117th Cong. (2022) (enacted).</u> (look at the Summary, Co-sponsors, Committees, and Related Bills tabs, and then read the Text, cross-referencing the current U.S. Code sections that it would amend so that you are prepared to discuss the proposed changes).</p> <p><u>H.R. Rep. No. 117-428 (2022).</u></p> <p><u>House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, 117th Cong. 2022), 2:22:00-2:26:19, 3:11:38-3:16:37, 3:27:00-3:33:37.</u></p> <p><u>Support the Big Cat Public Safety Act, Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance.</u></p> <p><u>Big Cat Coalition, Big Cat Rescue (Oct. 11, 2023).</u></p>	THREE QUESTIONS FOR CAROLE AND HOWARD BASKIN
17	Wed., Mar. 20		<p>No class meeting – Attend the VLGS Animal Law Society Annual Symposium, from 12-3PM in Yates/on Teams (if you are not able to attend the full event live, watch the recording).</p>	

18	Mon., Apr. 1	APPROPRIATIONS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION	<p><u><i>The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process, AM. SOC'Y FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Delcianna J. Winders, Animal Welfare Act Could Protect Animals and Taxpayers — If It's Enforced, U.S.A. TODAY (Dec. 26, 2017).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Delcianna Winders, It's Official — The Feds Are Protecting Animal Exploiters, DAILY CALLER (Apr. 26, 2019).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Rachel Fobar, USDA Accused of Ignoring Animal Welfare Violations in Favor of Business Interests, NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC (Oct. 13, 2021).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>H.R. 2617, 117th Cong. § 755 (2022) (enacted).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Excerpt from H.R. REP. NO. 117-392 (2022).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Letter from Members of Congress to Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Sept. 28, 2023).</i></u></p>	CERTIFICATION OF ALS SYMPOSIUM ATTENDANCE
19	Wed., Apr. 3	REGULATORY ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p><u><i>MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD: STEP-BY-STEP TIPS FOR WRITING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE OCEAN PROGRAM (May 2012).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMENT ON REGULATIONS, BROOKINGS INST. (Aug. 2018, updated Nov. 2022).</i></u></p> <p><u><i>THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT: AN OVERVIEW, CONG. RSCH. SERV. (Aug. 16, 2021).</i></u></p>	

			<p><u>EXECUTIVE ORDER 12866 - REGULATORY PLANNING AND REVIEW, ADMIN. CONF. OF THE U.S. (Jan. 11, 2018).</u></p> <p>SKIM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, 88 Fed. Reg. 48516 (July 7, 2023).</u> - <u>Proposed Rule, Animal Welfare; Amendments to Licensing Provisions and to Requirements for Dogs, 84 Fed. Reg. 10721 (Mar. 22, 2019).</u> - <u>PETA, Comment Letter on Proposed Rule to Amend Animal Welfare Act Licensing Provisions (May 20, 2019).</u> - <u>Final Rule, Animal Welfare; Amendments to Licensing Provisions and to Requirements for Dogs 85 Fed. Reg. 28772 (May 13, 2020).</u> 	
20	Mon., Apr. 8		No class meeting – Enjoy the eclipse!	
21	Wed., Apr. 10	INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY	<p><u>Sabine Brels, <i>The UN-iversalization of Animal Welfare Law</i> (2022).</u></p> <p><u>UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection (first pre-draft Aug. 23, 2018).</u></p> <p><u>Convention on Animal Protection for Public Health, Animal Well-Being, and the Environment (Nov. 16, 2022).</u></p>	CURRENT POLICY MEMO SECOND DRAFT
22	Mon., Apr. 15	CASE STUDY 1	TBA	
23	Wed., Apr. 17	CASE STUDY 2	TBA	

24	Mon., Apr. 22	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS		GROUP 1 PRESENTATIONS
25	Wed., Apr. 24	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS		GROUP 2 PRESENTATIONS
26	Mon., Apr. 29	WRAP UP		FINAL EVALUATION
	Thurs., May 9, 5PM			POLICY PROPOSAL MEMO