

ניסויים בבעלי-חיים והתפתחות האתיקה הרפואית (קורס באנגלית)

הקורס עוסק בהיסטוריה של ניסויים בבעלי-חיים (ובבני אדם) ובבעיות המוסריות-פילוסופיות שניסויים אלו עוררו (ועדיין מעוררים). אחת ממטרות הקורס היא לתרגל האזנה והתמודדות עם חומרים אקדמיים באנגלית (הנחיות המל"ג) – לכן, ההרצאות תועברנה באנגלית, אך ההשתתפות בקורס אינה מחייבת שליטה גבוהה בשפה ובמהלך הקורס ניתן להתבטא גם בעברית. מטלת הסיום תהיה באנגלית, אך קיימת אפשרות לבחינה ללא כתיבה (שאלון אמריקאי), או עבודת בית – נתייעץ על כך בכיתה ונחליט יחד.

Vivisection and Anti-cruelty Sentiments in the history of Bioethics

Khen Lampert

Abstract

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the ethics of our treatment of animals. Philosophers have led the way, and now a range of other scholars have followed from historians to social scientists.

Animals have become an emerging issue in ethics and in multidisciplinary inquiry. A rethink of the status of animals, is now accompanied by new "findings" and scientific discoveries which reveal the complexity of animal sentience, emotions, cognition and awareness. The ethical implications of this "new knowledge" have yet to be properly evaluated, but it is becoming clear that the old view that animals are mere things, tools, machines, or commodities cannot be sustained ethically.

But it is not only philosophy and science that are putting animals on the agenda: in Europe, North America and Australia, animal's welfare is increasingly becoming a **political** issue - as the interest in environmental challenges expands, and vegan and vegetarian trends heavily influence public discourse.

The current course focuses on the scientific practices around which the current interest in animals was formed: vivisection and the use of animals (and human) in experimentations. As we shall learn, these practices, on the one hand, formed the basis of modern medicine and neuroscience; and on the other, laid the foundation for protest and the emergence of the new field of Bioethics.

The lenses through which we shall look at the subject, will be historical and philosophical, with an emphasis on the development of science and experimentation during 19th century Europe; For the multitude of discoveries and moral problems they have brought about.

Teaching - The course will be based on lectures given in **English**, including references to articles and books. However, high English proficiency is not required. Attendance is mandatory (80%).

Course requirements - reading assignments and an exam (or a short writing assignment).

Attendance - 80% mandatory

Main topics (in tentative order):

1. Historical perspectives on the treatment of Animals.
2. Animals as the object of Scientific Research: 18th-19th centuries.
3. The horrors of vivisection as a moral problem.
4. Sentimentalism, Virtue ethics and the Utilitarian dominance.
5. The controversy in England and the United States and the rise of Animal Rights movements.
6. "The expanding circle" – when were and why?
7. Human Experimentations – The Tuskegee Syphilis study.
8. Pain and Suffering in Brain Research – new studies.
9. Pain and Suffering as a Social Problem.
10. Challenges of Medical Ethics today.
11. The philosophical question of Animal's Rights.

Bibliography (not final)

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