

# **PHIL 345 A1: Humans and Animals**

## **Fall 2022 - TR 9:30:10:50**

**Instructor: Prof. Edwin Etieyibo**

### **Course Description**

One of the most important and interesting topics in environmental ethics is that of the moral relationship between humans and animals. Human relationship with animals is, first and foremost, an issue concerning how humans ought to treat animals. But it is also an issue about the moral status of animals. Both issues are related. This is so insofar as one takes the view that an individual's ethical stance in respect of the moral status of animals does in some sense and at some level commit the individual to particular and distinctive kinds of action or simply directly connect to and influence the behaviour of that individual towards animals.

This course examines these issues focusing on questions such as: "Are non-human animals morally worthy or considerable?" "Do non-human animals have moral rights?" "What grounds the idea of moral rights and worthiness?" "Is there something characteristically unique about humans that justify the claim that they are the only beings that are morally worthy?" As part of examining these questions in the course, we shall look at some of the classical debates on animal rights and moral status as well as the ethics of meat eating and non-human animal research. In addition to this, we shall spend some time engaging with perspectives on non-human animals in and from African philosophy.

At the end of the course, it is expected that the introduction of students to some of the major ethical issues about the relationship between humans and non-human animals will help them question their beliefs and relationship with non-human animals and develop some of the analytical tools necessary to understand, debate, and write philosophically on these issues.

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available through eClass.