



## Module

# Animals in Science & Theology

Science Module for existing university or seminary level courses.

Drop in to a course syllabus (with modifications) in

Evolutionary Biology

Biology or Zoology

Religious Studies

Theological Anthropology

Introduction to Theology

Systematic Theology: Methodology

1 week's assignment for 3 hours of class meeting

### ANIMALS IN SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Both scientific and theological anthropology these days emphasize relationality-- that is, we *Homo sapiens* cannot be who we are apart from our relationship to one another, to the environment, to the plant world, and to the animal world. We are interdependent.

Just what should be the moral status of the animals around us and upon whom we are dependent? Do animals have intrinsic value, or only utilitarian

value? Do animals share with human beings the *imago Dei*, the divine image?  
Should animals be baptized by Christians?

## DLO (Desired Learning Outcomes)

Added to the set of DLOs for the entire course. The student should also demonstrate...

1. knowledge of current conversation regarding the relationship of humanity to animals.
2. ability to describe issues at stake;
3. at least a tentative moral stand toward the animals with whom we share our planet.

## REQUIRED READING

Either,

Joshua Moritz, "Animals and the Image of God in the Bible and Beyond"

*Dialog* 48:2 (Summer 2009) 134-146.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-6385.2009.00449.x/abstract>

Oliver Putz, "Moral Apes, Human Uniqueness, and the Image of God," *Zygon* 44:3 (September 2009) 613-624.

Or,

Marc Bekoff, "The Evolution of Animal Play, Emotions, and Social Morality: On Science, Theology, Spirituality, Personhood, and Love," *Zygon* 36:4 (December 2001) 615-655.

Celia Deane-Drummond, "The birth of morality and the fall of Adam through an evolutionary and inter-species lens," *Theology Today* 72:2 (July 2015) 182-193.

Or,

OHRs *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, ed. by Philip Clayton and Zachary

Simpson. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

ISBN 0-19-9279278-6. Hardbound 2006 or Paperback 2008 okay.

**This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.**

OHRs 52 Celia Deane-Drummond, "Theology, Ecology, and Values"

OHRs 55 Nancy Howell, "Relations between *Homo sapiens* and Other Animals"

Or,

RCRS: *The Routledge Companion to Religion and*

*Science*, eds., James W. Haag, Gregory R. Peterson, and Michael L. Spezio. London: Routledge, 2012.

ISBN 978-0-415-49244-7 (hbk) or 978-0-203-80351-6 (ebk).

**This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.**

RCRS 45 Ellison Banks Findly, "Animals as religious and soteriological beings: A Hindu perspective"

RCRS 46 Gregory R. Peterson, "Animals and Christianity,"