Throughout history people have used the category of animal to control each other. Calling someone an animal is to call them out for a transgression. Indeed animals usually represent bad behavior (“He acted like an animal”), uncontrolled sexuality (“she’s a dog” or calling women pieces of meat), or racial violence (referring to certain groups of people as animals). In each example the person described as an animal is the denigrated person. Calling groups of people animals has justified denying or limiting citizenship and reinforced abuse of animals. This class explores the category of the animal and the ways we use it to justify our behaviors toward people based on gender, race, class, sexualities and geographic location and toward animals. Using examples from film, novels, gender studies, philosophy, ecofeminism, animal studies and animal rights, and environmental studies, we will examine the impacts of this use of “the animal” on gender and race based ideas of justice as well as those on animals and our collective habitats.

Professors Katie Gentile and Wen Liu

Students taking this course can apply 3 credits towards any one of the following options:

- **Justice Core II** (Gen Ed, John Jay College Option)
- **English** (students can apply up to 6 credits of ISP classes towards the electives portion of the English major)
- **Humanities and Justice** (students can apply 9 credits of ISP classes towards Part 2 the HJS major)
- **Gender Studies** (students can apply up to 6 credits of ISP classes towards the electives portion of the Gender Studies major)
- **Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies**

For more information call (212) 237-8460; email ispinfo@jjay.cuny.edu; or stop by the ISP offices, 6.65 NB. For information about the Interdisciplinary Studies Program see: www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments/interdisciplinary_studies/about.php