

COURSE DETAIL

CREATURELY ETHICS: HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

Trinity College Dublin

Program(s)

Trinity College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Religious Studies

UCEAP Course Number

132

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

CREATURELY ETHICS: HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

UCEAP Transcript Title

CREATURELY ETHICS

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

This course introduces and engages in contemporary scholarly reflection on critical animal studies, posthumanism, and ecotheology. Students engage with theological perspectives on the definitions of “humanity,” “animality,” and “creatureliness.” They explore a number of theo-ethical topics in this area from animal conservation to food. Recent questions in ecological ethics swirl around “the question of the human” and “the question of the animal.” Theological and ethical concepts that define human beings as unique, with souls created imago dei, in the image of God with dominion over the planet are critiqued as being morally complicit with species decline, animal suffering, and habitat loss. On a planet undergoing the sixth great wave of animal extinction, this critique is no small matter. This course discusses how we understand the human in relation to other nonhuman creatures that occupy the planet. Students consider animal ethics, the blurry lines between wild and domestic, human and nonhuman, living and extinct, veganism and vegetarianism, human and posthuman and ask how these conversations cause us to rethink theological understandings of “creatureliness” and “creation” and “kinship.” The course asks how definitions of what it means to be “human” are already entangled in our theo-ethical and ecological concerns.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

REU22502

Host Institution Course Title

CREATURELY ETHICS: HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.tcd.ie/students/orientation/visiting-exchange/module-directory/Conf...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Religions, Peace Studies and Theology

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department****Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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