

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**VSCT 100- Human Animal Bond**

**Prepared by: Molly Mott, PhD**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
VETERINARY SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY  
May 2016**

**VSCT 100- Human Animal Bond**

- A. **TITLE:** Human Animal Bond
- B. **COURSE NUMBER** VSCT 100
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 1
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER OFFERED:** Fall
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**  
1 hour lecture
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** The Human Companion Animal Bond course is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding human animal relationships. Topics include mechanisms of attachment, social and psychological aspects of human animal interactions, pet loss and bereavement, physical and mental health benefits of animals, and animal assistance therapy programs. Major focus will be on developing the student’s interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding animals in society.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITE:** None
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** By the end of this course, the student will:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
1. Describe the origin of the human- animal bond.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence
2. Compare and contrast the various cultural and societal attitudes towards animals and explain the implication of such attitudes on human-animal relationships.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
3. Describe mechanisms of attachment between humans and animals.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence

4. List and describe the impact of companion animals on human health.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence
5. Discuss bereavement issues associated with pet loss.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence 4. Inter-personal
6. Investigate animal assistance and therapy programs.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence

K. **TEXTS:** Serpell, James (1996). *In the Company of Animals: A Study of Human-Animal Relationships*. Cambridge University Press, New York. ISBN: 0-521-57779

L. **REFERENCES:** Internet sites too numerous to cite.

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Access to a working computer with Internet capability. Most recent version of Internet Explorer preferred. Broadband connection, such as Road-Runner or DSL, is preferred. Broadband connections are recommended for assessments (tests/quizzes). Dial-up connections may not be as reliable as the broadband connections when taking exams or quizzes online.

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A - F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Essays/Discussion Board postings

P. **SPECIFIC TOPIC OUTLINE:**

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Date	Topic
<b>Week 1</b>	Orientation
<b>Week 2</b>	Introduction and Overview

<b>Week 3</b>	Explaining the Human-Animal Bond
<b>Week 4</b>	History of the Human-Animal Bond
<b>Week 5</b>	Different Cultures, Different Bonds
<b>Week 6</b>	Pet Ownership and Quality of Life
<b>Week 7</b>	Broken Bonds: Animal Abuse
<b>Week 8</b>	The Cruelty Connection: Guest Speaker
<b>Week 9</b>	Broken Bonds: Shelter Relinquishment
<b>Week 10</b>	Broken Bonds: Pet Loss & Bereavement
<b>Week 11</b>	Bereavement Issues: Guest Speaker
<b>Week 12</b>	Strengthening the Bond
<b>Week 13</b>	Application of the Human-Animal Bond
<b>Week 14</b>	Reflective Analysis

**Final exam**

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:**

N/A