

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



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**COURSE NUMBER: VSCT 100  
COURSE TITLE: Human Animal Bond**

**CIP Code: 01.8301**

**Created by: Matthew Blance, LVT  
Updated by:**

**School: School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice  
Department: Science Technology  
Implementation Semester/Year: Fall 2026**

A. **COURSE TITLE: Human-Animal Bond**

B. **COURSE NUMBER: VSCT 100**

C. **CREDIT HOURS (# Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Clinical):**

# Credit Hours per Week	
# Lecture Hours per Week	1
# Lab Hours per Week	
Other per Week	

D. **GRADING METHOD:**

A – F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pass/Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	

E. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:**

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F. **GER CATEGORY:**

Does the course satisfy a GER category? If so, please select all that apply.

[\(https://www.canton.edu/provost/assessment/ger/\)](https://www.canton.edu/provost/assessment/ger/)

[1-2] Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
[3] Diversity: Equity, Inclusion & Social Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>
[4] Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	<input type="checkbox"/>
[5] Natural Science & Scientific Reasoning	<input type="checkbox"/>
[6] Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/>
[7] Social Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/>
[8] Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>
[9] US History & Civic Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
[10] World History & Global Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>
[11] World Languages	<input type="checkbox"/>

**CORE COMPETENCIES (Required starting in Fall 2026):**

[12] Critical Thinking and Reasoning	<input type="checkbox"/>
[13] Information Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
[14] Civic Discourse	<input type="checkbox"/>

**G. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT (High-Impact Practices):**

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes, select [X] one or more of the following Curricular Attribute categories:  
 HIPs definitions found here: <https://www.suny.edu/applied-learning/resources/>

<b>Capstone</b>	
Creative Works	<input type="checkbox"/>
For-Credit Internship	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Practicum</b>	
Practicum [Clinical Placement]	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practicum [Non-Clinical Placement]	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Research &amp; Field Study</b>	
Field Research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undergraduate Research	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Service or Community</b>	
Service Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Study Abroad</b>	
International and Domestic Travel/Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/>
COIL	<input type="checkbox"/>

**H. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:**

Fall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fall and Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Human-Animal Bond course is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding human animal relationships and the role animal behavior plays. Topics include the social and psychological aspects of human-animal interactions, an introduction to animal behavior, pet loss and bereavement, the physical and mental health benefits of animals, and animal-assisted therapy programs. Major focus will be on developing student interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding animals in society.

J. **PRE-REQUISITES:** None  
**CO-REQUISITES:** None

**K. LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

SLO Statement	PLO	ISLO	Subset	GER
a. Understand the importance of the role of animal behavior in the human-animal bond.	4. Apply professional skills and knowledge expected of health care professionals relevant to career focus area.	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills		
b. Analyze the various cultural and societal attitudes towards animals and explain the implications of such attitudes on human-animal relationships.	5. Recognize the diversity and influence of cultural beliefs, values, and practices on health behaviors and health or animal care delivery.	4. Social Responsibility [IK]		
c. Evaluate and remember the impact of companion animals on human health.	4. Apply professional skills and knowledge expected of health care professionals relevant to career focus area.	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills		
d. Understand bereavement issues associated with pet loss.	4. Apply professional skills and knowledge expected of health care professionals relevant to career focus area.	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills		
e. Investigate animal assistance and therapy programs.	2. Demonstrate an ability to explore issues and ideas and formulate an opinion or conclusion.	2. Critical thinking (IA)		
f. Analyze the animal's role in society.	4. Apply professional skills and knowledge expected of health care professionals relevant to career focus area.	4. Social Responsibility [IK]		

KEY	
<b>SLO</b>	<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>
<b>PLO</b>	<b>Program Learning Outcome</b>
<b>ISLO</b>	<b>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</b>
<b>ISLO #</b>	<b>ISLO and Subsets</b>
1	Communication Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral [O]</li> <li>• Written [W]</li> </ul>
2	Critical Thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Analysis [CA]</li> <li>• Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA]</li> <li>• Problem Solving [PS]</li> </ul>
3	Foundational Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Management [IM]</li> <li>• Quantitative Lit, /Reasoning [QTR]</li> </ul>
4	Social Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical Reasoning [ER]</li> <li>• Global Learning [GL]</li> <li>• Intercultural Knowledge [IK]</li> <li>• Teamwork [T]</li> </ul>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
<b>GER</b>	<b>General Education Requirements:</b> Refer to Listing, Section F

**L. TEXTS:** None.

**M. SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:** N/A

**N. EQUIPMENT:** None.

**O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Quiz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduce the human-animal bond
  - A. Explain what the bond is
  - B. Explain how animals were domesticated and how the bond was created
- II. Introduce animal behavior
  - A. Within companion animal species
  - B. The connection to the human-animal bond
  - C. How animal behavior has changed over time
- III. Explore different cultures
  - A. What the bond looks like across cultures
  - B. Animals' role across cultures
- IV. Animal care
  - A. Pet ownership
  - B. Quality of life
  - C. Abuse and mistreatment
- V. Explore the link between companion animals and human health
  - A. How pets affect human health
  - B. Animal loss
  - C. Bereavement
- VI. How animals are used for human health
  - A. Service animals
  - B. Animals in therapy
  - C. Emotional support animals
- VII. Guest speaker(s)
  - A. Provide a deeper and personal insight into any of the following:
    - a. Animal abuse
    - b. Animal loss
    - c. Animal assistance or therapy

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a**