

Eighteenth-Century Animals and Ethics

SS 2006

Thursdays 12 – 2 PM

Wilhelmstr. 26, HS 00 006

Dr. Greta Olson

Midterm Exam, June 29

Please note that your typewritten exam is due on July 6th without fail at 12:15. Please answer two of the following questions. You must demonstrate thorough knowledge of both *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels* to pass the exam. Non-native speakers of English should write a minimum of three one-and-a-half or two-spaced pages in total. Native speakers should write a minimum of five pages. You may use secondary sources including class notes but are in no way required to do so.

- 1) What animal scene do you consider to be most important in *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels* respectively? Why do you think that this scene is most important for the narrative?
- 2) Write an animal scene that you think goes missing from *Robinson Crusoe* or *Gulliver's Travels*. Try to make it fit into the novel in terms of its language and form. Briefly describe the criteria for your attempting to make the scene appear authentic.
- 3) How is the colonialist enterprise being explored differently in the two travel narratives? How does this pertain to the animals featured in the novels?
- 4) How do Swift and Defoe work to portray human nature through their presentations of others (animals and other types of humans) respectively?
- 5) How do the Selkirk narratives and their treatment of animals shed light on portrayals of animals in *Robinson Crusoe*? How does Swift play with the tropes of the marooned-man narrative in Part IV of *Gulliver's Travels*?
- 6) How do the presentation of yahoos and houyhnhnms confuse the division between human and animals? How might this be seen as a rewriting of animal-human relations in *Robinson Crusoe*?
- 7) Consider Gulliver's use of yahoo skins as leather in comparison to Crusoe's clothing of himself in goat skins. What does this say about the sensibilities towards other species displayed in the two novels?