

*Summer 2012*  
*May 14-June 1*

*PHIL 315 - Special Topics: Animal Cognition*  
*(available for COGS credit as well)*

*Sara Waller 9:15-12 noon*



This course examines the notions of intelligence, cognition, reasoning, consciousness, and mental content, as they appear in the philosophical views and empirical studies of animals in individual and social contexts. We will review scientific findings that suggest striking likenesses and intriguing differences in the (apparent) thought processes of humans and animals, and ask whether the research techniques that brought us these results are fully adequate to measuring such unobservable entities as conscious experience and thought. We will compare methods for measuring consciousness and intelligence in animals to those used for human beings,

and ask questions about types of consciousness, and the process of dividing unobservable entities into types. Students will have the opportunity to volunteer at local animal care facilities in order to obtain hands-on experience in the observation and measurement of animal behavior.