



TEACH YOURSELF CLASSICS
AFFORDABLE RESOURCES FOR STUDYING ANTIQUITY

THE ROMAN ANIMAL

Description:

This topic guide is designed for beginners without much knowledge of antiquity.

Humankind is in many ways defined by their relationship to animals, as attitudes towards the “other” reflect attitudes towards “self.” This course aims to examine the complex and shifting relationship between human beings and animal life in the Roman world. With readings from both their Greek predecessors and Roman authors, this guide will explore the use and presence of animals in Rome for food, entertainment, and companionship, and the ethical implications of these relationships. An examination into the Roman attitudes will provide a lens for modern attitudes. This course includes an array of primary and secondary readings, as well as ancient artistic evidence.

Course Goals:

- Understand the various roles of animal life in the ancient Roman world.
- Explore Roman attitudes towards the animals they encountered.
- Discuss how these attitudes reflect upon human society.

Recommended Books:

George Jennison, *Animals for Show and Pleasure in Ancient Rome*, 2005 | ISBN 9780812219197 (Can be difficult to obtain)

Aelian's *On the Nature of Animals*, trans. Gregory McNamee, 2011 | ISBN 9781595340757 (Although any translations will do: Read on [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org) or [LacusCurtius](https://www.lacuscurtius.org))

Stephen T. Newmyer, *Animals in Greek and Roman Thought* (sourcebook), 2010 | ISBN 9780415773355 (See if a local college has a copy of it to borrow or ILL)

Linda Kalof, ed. *A Cultural History of Animals in Antiquity*, 2007 | ISBN 9781845204969 (Volume 1 ONLY)

Not sure where to find academic books? Check [WorldCat.org](https://www.worldcat.org)

Part 1: Introduction to Animals and the Other

1: Pre-Roman Summary: Jennison (xi-41)

2: Pets in Rome: Jennison (99-136)

Week 2: Violent Relations

3: Hunting in Rome: [Grattius' Cynegetica](#) and (article) Henderson's "[Grattius & the Augustan Subject](#)"

4: [Nemesianus' Cynegetica](#)

5: Green's "[Did The Romans Hunt?](#)" "Hunting in the Ancient Mediterranean World," J. Donald Hughes (in Kalof's volume)

6: Hunting/Sacrifice: Newmyer (87-116)

7: History of the Amphitheater: Jennison (42-98)

Week 3: Interactions

8: Amphitheater Organization: Jennison (137-182)

9: Observations of Animals: Newmyer (37-70)

10: Observations: Aelian

Week 4: The Mirror of Self

11: Animal Reasoning: Newmyer (xi-36, 71-86)

12: The Roman Human Animal: excerpts from [Petronius' Satyrica](#)