

# Honors Course Syllabus - Fall 2025

# Tamed

**From Wild to Domesticated, the Ten Animals and Plants That Changed Human History**



## IDH 2930 (UN)COMMON READS

Wednesday, period 7th  
(1:55 - 2:55 PM)

Location: 119 Little Hall

Credits: 1

Required Textbook:  
Roberts, Alice (2025)  
*Tamed: From Wild to  
Domesticated, the Ten Animals  
and Plants That Changed  
Human History.*

ISBN-10: 889303048H

Course website:  
Tamed on UF e-Learning.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### COURSE SYNOPSIS

In this course we will cover the book *Tamed: Ten Species that Changed Our World* by Alice Roberts, which explores the fascinating history of domestication of ten key species and their influence on us, humans. From the early domestication of wolves to the cultivation of wheat, the rise of potatoes, and the genetic modification of chickens, students will examine the connections between genetics, anthropology, and cultural history. During weekly discussions (from book readings and invited speakers) we will learn about the scientific, cultural, and ethical views of domestication. By the end of this course, students will have a better understanding of how humans and these species have influenced each other, and what that means for the future of biodiversity.

### LEARNING GOALS

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate how domesticated species have shaped human societies and ecosystems.
- Understand the scientific methods used to study domestication.
- Recognize the impacts of domestication on biodiversity and culture.

# INSTRUCTORS



Dr. Lucas Majure  
Associate Curator FLMNH

- Office Hours: Period 6 or by appointment.
- Email: [lmajure@ufl.edu](mailto:lmajure@ufl.edu)
- 379 Dickinson Hall



Dr. Mariela Pajuelo  
Assistant Scientist FLMNH

- Office Hours: Period 6 or by appointment.
- Email: [mpajuelo@ufl.edu](mailto:mpajuelo@ufl.edu)
- 216 Dickinson Hall

## COURSE POLICIES

### CLASS Demeanor

- Students are expected to be in class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.
- Please do not use cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom.
- Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.
- Emails sent to the instructor must follow professional etiquette (e.g., [How to Write a Professional Email](#))

### GRADING & ATTENDANCE

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

### COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [GatorEvals](#). Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [GatorEvals Results](#).

## GRADING

### LIST OF GRADED WORK

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION (70%):**
  - Students are expected to actively engage in weekly discussions.
  - A day before class, students will submit 2 **written discussion questions** based on the reading assignment for that week.
  - Students will also be required to lead one class discussion.
- **INFOGRAPHIC (25%):** students will select a domesticated species of interest and create a visual representation of the data, knowledge or other information related to their species.
- **PRESENTATION (5%):** Based on the species chosen to create an infographic, students will deliver a **5-7 min presentation** at the end of the semester.

### GRADING SCALE (%)

A:	93-100	C+:	77-79
A-:	90-92	C:	73-76
B+:	87-89	C-:	70-72
B:	83-86	D:	60-69
B-:	80-82	E:	<60

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C).

Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

## ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
1	Aug 27, 2025	Introduction to the class and discussion of syllabus.		Complete Introduction assignment
2	Sep 3, 2025	From wolves to companions.	Ch1: Dogs	
3	Sep 10, 2025	The grain that started it all.	Ch2: Wheat	FM Collections tour: Herbarium. Students choose a domesticated species
4	Sep 17, 2025	How wild beast became livestock	Ch3: Cattle	
5	Sep 24, 2025	From forest floor to frying pan.	Ch6: Chickens	
6	Oct 1, 2025	A Mesoamerican marvel transformed	Ch4: Corn	
7	Oct 8, 2025	How tubers from the Andes fed the world.	Ch5: Potatoes	Students provide project description
8	Oct 15, 2025	Feeding billions, shaping cultures	Ch7: Rice	
9	Oct 22, 2025	Speed, strength, and human history	Ch8: Horse	FM Collections tour: Vertebrate Paleontology. Students submit infographic outline
10	Oct 29, 2025	Seeds of sweetness and story.	Ch9: Apples	
11	Nov 5, 2025	The ultimate domesticators	Ch10: Humans	Guest speaker
12	Nov 12, 2025	Course wrap-up		Students submit Infographic Submit Book Review.
13	Nov 19, 2025	Final Project presentations		Students submit infographic reviews and provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.
14	Nov 26, 20...	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday		
15	Dec 3, 2025	Final Project presentations		Students provide a 5-7 min presentation of their chosen topic.

## PLAGIARISM

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## HELP & OTHER RESOURCES

### HONORS PROGRAM

201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu)

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings:

<https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

### ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible.

### UF COUNSELING RESOURCES

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. [The Counseling and Wellness Center](#) can help you address those problems (4th floor at Peabody Hall, 392-1575).