Animal Rights Law

– Course schedule WS 2026/2027 –

Unit	Presentations	Date
Unit 1: Empirical, philosophical, and historical foundations	–	29 October
Unit 2: Current Animal Welfare Laws		30 October
Unit 3: Animals as Tradable Products		
Unit 4: Theories of Subjective Rights for Animals		
	Stucki, Towards a Theory of Legal Animal Rights: Simple and Fundamental Rights	26 November
	Schiff Berman, Rats, Pigs, and Statues on Trial: The Creation of Cultural Narratives in the Prosecution of Animals and Inanimate Objects	
Unit 5: Personhood for Animals	*Cochrane*, Ownership and Justice for Animals	
	Kymlicka/Donaldson, Animals and the Frontiers of Citizenship	
	New York Court of Appeals (USA), Nonhuman Rights Project v. Breheny ("Happy"), Majority Opinion and Dissenting Opinion of Judge Rivera	
	Judicial Power Mendoza, Re Cecilia	
	Kurki, Legal Personhood and Animal Rights	
	Bernet Kempers, Transition rather than Revolution: The Gradual Road towards Animal Legal Personhood through the Legislature	

Unit 6: Practical Animal Rights and Rights of Nature	Constitutional Court of Ecuador, Case No. 253-20-JH, Judgement of 27 January 2022 ("Estrellita"), pp. 8–36	27 November
Unit 7: Drafting Animal Rights	*Neumann*, The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights or the Creation of a New Equilibrium between Species	
	Nussbaum, Beyond "Compassion and Humanity": Justice for Nonhuman Animals	
	US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, Naruto v. Slater	
	Oregon Court of Appeals (USA), Justice v. Vercher	
Unit 8: Enforcing Animal Rights and Animal Agency	*[Special guest contribution from legal practice]*	
Unit 9: Animal Rights as a Social Justice Movement	European Court of Human Rights, PETA v. Germany, Judgement of 8 November 2012	
	Stilt, Amicus Brief to the Superior Court of California	
Unit 10: Critique of Animal Rights	*Wills*, Animal rights, legal personhood and cognitive capacity: addressing 'levelling-down' concerns	