

[Ike Sharpless](#)

For my 25th blog post, I was hoping you guys could help me brainstorm a potential class I'd (eventually) like to teach...if you've got the time or inclination, of course: [Seth Marko](#), [Andrew Fippinger](#), [Robyn Schroeder](#), [Catherine Pfaffenroth](#), [Corey O'Hara](#), [David Martin](#)...



[Animal Politics | at the intersection of animal studies and food politics](#)

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(Image source) In addition to my Intro to Political Thought class at UMass Lowell, I'll be teaching two new courses next semester: Intro to International Relations (also at UML) and Perspectives on Human-Animal Relations (at Tufts' Experimental College). In the Spring, I've already approved a Global

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- [Ike Sharpless](#) And feel free to ignore this - If I'm linking you I just thought you might be interested: [David Raikow](#), [Drew Bennett](#), [Filmon 'Filly'](#), [Hannah Sharpless Graff](#), [Isaiah O'Rear](#), [Joe Tracey](#)

[Sunday at 2:45pm](#) · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#) [Jonathan Psotka](#), [Justin Gundlach](#), [Kaye Wierzbicki](#), [Kris Ellis-Levy](#), [Matthew Jaffe Roe](#), [Omar Dia](#)

[Sunday at 2:47pm](#) · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#) [Scott Ehrig-Burgess](#)...Sorry for bugging y'all's :)

[Sunday at 2:48pm](#) · Like



- [Andrew Fippinger](#) I'm not super familiar with these issues. I'm sure you've thought about this, but what about selections from Derrida's *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, Haraway's *Primate Visions*, or Agamben's *The Open*?

[Sunday at 4:31pm](#) · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#) Thanks Fipp - I hadn't heard of Agamben's book...critical theory is not my thing, but I do try to keep abreast of developments. The link I posted was actually about a possible "political theory and speculative literature" course - but, while we're sidetracked: I recall you putting together a course on food last year. Could you shoot me a copy of the syllabus? (I'm planning a political science course for next year...)

[Sunday at 4:42pm](#) · Like



- [Kaye Wierzbicki](#)

Interesting stuff! I've been meaning to read *The City and The City* and *The Wind-up Girl*

for a while--now I feel even more inspired to track them down. Some other authors/texts that popped into my mind were Octavia Butler (Kindred would wo...See More
Sunday at 4:45pm · Like



- [Andrew Fippinger](#) Oops... I had just looked at the first part of the post! What about Calvino's Invisible Cities? William Morris's News from Nowhere is a really interesting utopian novel from the late Victorian period that imagines a socialist world based on craftsmanship and respect for artisan labor.
Sunday at 4:54pm · Like



- [Andrew Fippinger](#) (Just emailed you my syllabus.)
Sunday at 4:57pm · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#)
Thanks guys! (and got it, Fipp) - I've been deep in academic nonfiction land for at least 5 years now, so this is very helpful. And I'd recommend The City and The City over Windup Girl, Kaye--I was excited to read what was hailed as a cros...See More
Sunday at 5:25pm · Like



- [Hannah Sharpless Graff](#) Oh, you know this is right up my alley. Will consider and send you a list of only the most appropriate.
Sunday at 8:07pm · Like



- [Hannah Sharpless Graff](#) And, yes, agree on Octavia Butler, and think Margaret Atwood's Handmaid's Tale is a must.
Sunday at 8:08pm · Like



- [Robyn Schroeder](#) before I finished reading your description (and saw you'd already listed it), I thought of The Dispossessed--stimulated great conversations in a class at Brown I audited a couple years ago.
Yesterday at 12:21am · Like



- [Justin Gundlach](#) My contribution is a bit old school: Gulliver's Travels (preferably not all of it, but only the chapters on i) the Flying Island where math and music are privileged about all "practical" activities, and ii) the "rational" Houynhymns whose society divides its members into nobility and commoners as well as enslaving degraded humans.
Yesterday at 10:58am · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#) Part of the challenge is crafting a course that looks different than a traditional class (the excollege gets something like 150 applications for 23 spots...I was lucky to even get my animals course approved!), which is why I went for the focus on more recent stuff, otherwise some Swift would definitely be good. Re. Atwood, have you read Oryx & Crake, Pip? I haven't, but I'm wondering about it...
Yesterday at 12:07pm · Like



- [Kris Ellis-Levy](#) Oryx & Crake or The Year of the Flood would be perfect for this course, Ike. Love the nomination of Snow Crash. If you want a graphic novel you could add The Watchmen.
Yesterday at 12:47pm · Like



- [Corey O'Hara](#) I agree with Kris. I personally like Oryx & Crake better for this (and for you--how have you not read it, Ike!?), and Watchmen would be fun. Actually, I kind of feel as if this course could benefit from being graphic novel heavy, especially if that would make it more "ex"...
Yesterday at 2:03pm via [Facebook Mobile](#) · Like



- [Kris Ellis-Levy](#) If you want to get really crazy and anti-traditional literature - add a young adult novel: The Hunger Games. Or add the movie it copies: Battle Royal
Yesterday at 3:00pm · Like



- [Ike Sharpless](#) Much appreciated! Oryx & Crake and Hunger Games here I come...and yeah, I was thinking Watchmen would be good, too (my concern there would be that students have probably seen the horrible movie but not read the classic comic, but that's life).
Yesterday at 5:08pm · Like



- [John McGannon](#) Yes, oryx and crake. Fred wiseman's MEAT
Yesterday at 6:32pm · Like



- [Hannah Sharpless Graff](#) Yes Oryx and Crake, although, I still say Handmaid's Tale. Children of Men? and Maybe Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro? Hunger Games, fine, but Ike, you'll hate it as it is abysmal writing. It is true that the YA genre is ripe for this class.
23 hours ago · Like



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[Ike Sharpless](#) I'll read Never Let Me Go...and do you have Children of Men for me to borrow? Re. Handmaid's Tale, I could do a subsection on gender, but I'd rather do Left Hand of Darkness if I had to choose between the two on the topic. Thanks!

12 hours ago · Like



• [Justin Gundlach](#) I would endorse Never Let Me Go in a general way, but not necessarily for the course you're describing. Remains of the Day would be a better Ishiguro selection for getting at politics-culture through fiction (imho).

10 hours ago · Like



• [Kris Ellis-Levy](#) I do second Hannah's warning about the hunger games awful writing - but that would make it anti literature and edge into pop culture. And Never Let Me Go was on my mind to - but it's more science as shaping culture and ethics rather than politics and resistance.

4 hours ago · Like



• [Ike Sharpless](#) I'm thinking of running with the following, as I wait to read everyone's excellent suggestions:

3 hours ago · Like



• [Ike Sharpless](#)

(oops-) Mieville: The City and the City / Embassytown; Le Guin: The Dispossessed, The Lathe of Heaven (or the Left Hand of Darkness); Stephenson: Snow Crash; Moore: Watchmen; Calvino, Invisible Cities; Atwood, Oryx & Crake; Collins, The Hu...See More

3 hours ago · Like



• [Andrew Fippinger](#)

I totally second/third the Hunger Games. It's an unbelievably enjoyable read (even if the writing isn't fantastic). And I think it would raise some good inquiry questions for an undergrad class. I almost got to teach a Young Adult Fiction c...See More

3 hours ago · Like



• [Andrew Fippinger](#) P.S. Depending on the level of the class, I think that it's completely fair to assign 1 book (of reasonable length) per week. We certainly read at that pace at Wesleyan, and I think it's good to encourage students to adopt somewhat intensive reading practices!

3 hours ago · Like



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[Ike Sharpless](#)

Thanks everyone - I'm glad I fleshed this out a bit, so I can organize my reading accordingly and have this simmering on the back burner (course proposal isn't due until October...). My main focus, as I'm imagining it, won't be anarchism pe...See More about an hour ago · Like