

## Lecture-05-2/10/2025

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[Chaucer, Parliament of Fowls]

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- Chaucer was a poet, writer, author of *Canterbury Tales*
  - Chaucer's avian class system: 1) birds of prey, 2) worm fowl, 3) seed fowl, 4) water fowl
  - Birds are trying to decide mates
  - Chaucer uses birds to describe the rules of nature to demonstrate the differences of reproduction between humans and animals
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[Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"]

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- Sees a sharp line between what is proper to animals versus humans
  - Anthropomorphic, yet not anthropocentric as he questions the space between humans and animals.
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[Plumwood, Excerpt from Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason]

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- **Anthromorphism:** Attributing to non-humans characteristics only humans have while acknowledging the potential for human and nonhuman behavior to overlap
  - **Anthropocentrism:** Centered around humans, especially when the human is used as the measure of everything else
  - Cross-species representation is not automatically colonizing or self-imposing, distinction speaking with another versus for another
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[Alan of Lille, *The Complaint of Nature*]

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- The animal/natural world all follow Nature's laws but only humans do not follow her laws
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- Nature seen as regulating sexuality
- Without reproduction, nature has failed
- Takes a platonic view of nature, higher forms exist somewhere else - Nature's job is to implement them on Earth
- It is only humans who do not follow what they are supposed to do by Nature

#### [Lecture Notes]

- How are humans a subset of the animal world?
- Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who ministered towards those sent into gladiator arenas, he was murdered in refusal to cease his practice
- Enjoy snow day if campus is closed, Wednesday lecture will be recorded and on Canvas by 2 PM 2/12 if campus is closed