



The Department of Greek and Roman Classics presents

Daniel P. Tompkins Memorial Lecture on
Diversity in the Ancient Mediterranean

ARE HORSES COMPANION SPECIES?

HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIPS IN GREEK ANTIQUITY

SEPT. 24, 2025 | 11am-12pm

215 MAZUR HALL (INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE LOUNGE)

Light refreshments to follow

In *The Companion Species Manifesto*, posthumanist Donna Haraway reimagines human-animal relationships, focusing on mutual respect and the cultural and biological significance of nonhuman animals. In this talk, Treadway explores whether this companion species framework can be extended to non-pet animals. The horse in particular played a vital role in ancient Greek culture, politics, and philosophy.

To test the companion species theory on horses, Treadway examines the horse-human relationship in Xenophon's *On Horsemanship*, whose analogies and language suggest a view of horses as culturally and politically significant -- comparable to his treatment of soldiers, wives, and enslaved people. In navigating these entrenched hierarchies of ancient Greek society, Treadway asks along with Haraway: how do relationships work, who participates, what becomes possible, and how might all actors learn to love each other less violently?

LECTURER



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