Hormones and Behaviour – PSYC342
Winter Session 2013

TIME & PLACE: January 7th to April 16th, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14h35 – 15h55
MCMED 522

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COURSE GOAL: To familiarize students with the basic concepts and theories in major areas of hormones and behavior, and to stimulate interest and further study in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Have a clear understanding of what defines Behavioral Neuroendocrinology as a Science, and what it can (and can’t) do;
2. Explain the role of hormones in mediating perception and behavior;
3. Understand the functions of the different kinds of hormones;
4. Describe the endocrine system in humans;
5. Understand the impact of development on endocrine regulation (and vice versa);
6. Describe reproductive and sexual behaviors in the context of hormonal regulation;
7. Explain how hormones interact within a greater social and cultural context to determine behavior.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD: One hour and twenty minutes of in-class lecture to cover selected reading material. Classes will include assignments and activities to supplement the lectures and text. The average student will likely require 2 1/2 hours of reading/study time at home per week (75 minutes per lecture) to obtain an average grade.

TEXTBOOK: Course Pack available at the McGill bookstore

EVALUATION: Grading will consist of one assignment in the form of a group project and two exams (midterm and final exam). All exams will be closed-book and will cover reading material and information presented during lectures or in audiovisuals. Exams will include multiple choice and essay questions. Students may write answers to exam items in French, if desired. There will be no possibility for extra-credit work. The final exam can cover all material. Should a student miss the midterm due to medical reasons, the final exam will account for a higher portion of the final grade.

Grading: Assignment 20%, Midterm 30%, Final Exam 50%
Section 1: Basics and Introduction
January 8: Academia and Hormones & Behavior *CP 1.1
January 10: Methods in Research and Academia CP 1.2
January 15: Overview of the central nervous system CP 1.3
January 17: Overview of the endocrine system CP 1.4
January 22: Systems’ actions, interactions, and regulations **CP 1.5
January 24: Methods in Hormones and Behavior CP 1.6
January 29: (Ab)normal sexual development ***CP 1.7
January 31: Movie: XXY

Section 2: Major themes in H&B
February 5: Gender identity and roles CP 2.1
February 7: Male and female sexual behavior CP 2.2
February 12: The stress system CP 2.3
February 14: Gender and sex differences in stress regulation CP 2.4
February 19: Neuroimaging of stress ****CP 2.5
February 21: Female menstrual cycle CP 2.6
Week of February 25: Midterm (exact time and location tbd)
February 28: Movie 2: The disappearing male

Section 3: Hot topics in H&B
March 5: Reading week
March 7: Reading week -
March 12: Hormones, Eating and Eating Disorders CP 3.1
March 14: Menopause and Hormone Replacement Therapy CP 3.2
March 19: Chronobiology CP 3.3
March 21: Hormones and memory CP 3.4
March 26: Hormones and attachment CP 3.5
March 28: Hormones and attachment II CP 3.6
April 2: Pheromones CP 3.7
April 4: Sleep, glucose regulation and appetite CP 3.8

Section 4: PSYC342 conference sessions
April 9: Conference session 1 CP 4.1
April 11: Conference session 2 CP 4.2
April 16: Famous last words
April 17-30: Final exam

* Students should do the required course pack reading before class.
** January 22 - Last day to change (add or drop) with refund.
***January 29 - Last day to withdraw from class with a ‘W’ mark with refund
****February 19 – Last day to withdraw from class with a ‘W’ mark without refund