Syllabus

Neuroendocrine Basis of Social Stress and Social Behavior - 51633

Last update 09-10-2016

HU Credits: 2

Responsible Department: psychology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Salomon Israel

Coordinator Email: salomon.israel@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:
Dr.

Course/Module description:
This is an interdisciplinary course that examines the relationship between hormones and human social behavior. It reflects a growing interest among social psychologists in the role of the neuroendocrinological systems in basic social processes such as stress, cooperation, aggression, and dominance. How do hormones with effects in the brain regulate physiology, emotions, cognition, and behavior, without the necessity for conscious input or control? Here we focus on four key molecules with profound effects in humans: cortisol, testosterone, oxytocin, and vasopressin. The course will be taught in English.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1) Gain a basic understanding of the main hormone systems related to social stress and behavior, as well as the methods for measuring and manipulating these systems
2) Apply this understanding to examine research questions related to the role of hormones in social psychology.
3) Critically evaluate research in social neuroendocrinology in the form of discussion questions and oral presentations

Attendance requirements(%):
15% The success of this class relies heavily on your active participation including answering and asking questions and taking part in discussions.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:
1) Introduction to the neuroendocrine system
2) Stress and Cortisol, Testosterone and the challenge hypothesis
3) Laboratory measures of social stress
4) Oxytocin: stress and social development
5) Oxytocin and trust
6) Oxytocin and face perception
7) Oxytocin and antisocial behavior
8) Individual Differences in intranasal oxytocin response
9) Vasopressin and social behavior
10) Testosterone and social cognition
11) Testosterone and competition
12) Bringing it all together. Theoretical models integrating across hormone systems

Required Reading:


Mikolajczak, M., Pinon, N., Lane, A., de Timary, P., & Luminet, O. (2010). Oxytocin not only increases trust when money is at stake, but also when confidential information is in the balance. *Biological psychology*, 85(1), 182-184.


schadenfreude (gloating). Biological psychiatry, 66(9), 864-870.


The oxytocin paradox. Frontiers in behavioral neuroscience, 8.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 50 %
Presentation 35 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: