

## **Hormones and Behavior**

UCSD Department of Psychology  
Psychology 132 (4 credit units) - Summer Session I 2013  
Tu/Th 2 - 4:50

**Professor Michael R. Gorman** Office: 5133 McGill Hall  
e-mail: [mgorman@ucsd.edu](mailto:mgorman@ucsd.edu) Office hours: Tuesdays, 5-6 pm

Course Web Page (For Assignments, Updates, etc.) <http://gormanlab.ucsd.edu/courses/psyc132.html>

Course Description: This discussion-based course will survey selected topics related to behavioral endocrinology -- the field concerned with the effects of chemical signals (hormones, neurohormones and pheromones) on behavior as well as reciprocal effects of behavior on these chemical systems. Specific topics covered will likely include aggression, sex and sexuality, feeding, learning, affiliation and environmental endocrine disruptors. Animal studies will be emphasized, as will be the relevance of these studies to humans.

Reading. There is no required textbook for this class. A recommended text is An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology (3rd edition) by Randy J. Nelson.

Grading: There are four components. Each is worth 25%.

1. Midterm exam based on material covered in class and in assigned reading
2. Quizzes. There will be 4-7 unannounced quizzes, given during the first 10 minutes of class, that will assess whether you have done required reading and/or kept up with prior discussions. These will be graded as "+", "0" or "-"
  - +: it is clear you have made a serious effort to prepare the reading for discussion
  - 0: you probably looked at the reading but not as well as you should have for discussion
  - : there is no evidence you prepared the reading.

The quiz with the lowest grade (or not taken) will be dropped without penalty.

3. Presentations in final week of class
4. Final exam based on all course material including student presentations

Extra Credit (up to 10%): Through the quarter, there will be opportunities to write 5-8 short reaction essays, questionnaires, journal entries, etc that will allow you to boost your final grade by up to 10%. These will be submitted by email to me ([mgorman@ucsd.edu](mailto:mgorman@ucsd.edu)) and must have "Hormones Extra Credit" as the subject line. It is likely that I can give only limited feedback, and I will assign points at the end of the quarter.

Although unlikely to exercise this option, the professor reserves the right to make changes to the grading policies described here.

Attendance: Because this is largely a discussion class, students are expected to attend class regularly.

**Exams may refer to discussions held in class, student presentations etc.**

**Students are reminded of UCSD's academic integrity policies. Collaboration and cooperation are encouraged in this class EXCEPT for written work including quizzes, exams and extra credit assignments. You may talk to other students before you complete an assignment, but may receive no help from another student while writing an assignment.**