

Special Topics Course: Hormones & Behavior

Psych 410 - Fall 2009
MWF 12:00-12:50



- Compassion, sex, violence: all of these behaviors and more are modulated by hormones.
- How can very small changes in an animal's body chemistry facilitate (or inhibit) such striking behaviors that are so central to animal's survival?
- In this course we will consider a number of prominent examples in the animal kingdom that begin to address this question.

Neuroscience Elective

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Course Overview: Hormones can have both dramatic and subtle effects on an animal's behavior. Hormones regulate reproductive behaviors, parental behaviors aggressive behaviors and can modulate the degree of sociality expressed by animals. This course will examine how hormones interact with nervous system to produce these complex behaviors seen among all vertebrate species. Additionally, we will examine the neuroendocrinology of unique species specific behaviors. We will take a comparative approach and draw examples of neuroendocrine function from throughout the animal kingdom including fish, birds, reptiles and mammals (including humans). Prerequisites Psych 103 or permission of instructor Dr. Michael Ruscio, ruscio@cofc.edu