Psychology 4092/5092: Hormones & Behavior
Handout #1 - Course Plan
Fall, 1990::M-W-F @ 9 a.m.

GOAL: Review major endocrine systems and their relationships to behavior, with an emphasis on sexual, maternal and aggressive behaviors; newer findings will be reviewed in Phase 4 of course.

TEXT: No assigned text. Readings will be assigned.

READINGS: Readings for examination 1 and 2 are listed on Handout #2. Copies of these readings will be made available in Norlin Copy Center. Better personal copies of the readings can be made from the cited journal or book, in most cases.

EXAMS: There will be four examinations. Each will be about 50 minutes in length. The fourth exam will be given during the time scheduled for the final examination. The exams will contain a mixture of objective-type questions and short essays.

REPORTS: Two Reports are due, one on or before October 22, and the second on or before November 21. A Report consists of a one-page, typewritten review of an original research article from the journal Hormones and Behavior. This journal is available in the Science library section of Norlin Library. For each Report, pick an article from the 1980-1990 issues of Hormones and Behavior, and complete the Report in accordance with the instructions on Handout #3. In computing your course grade, the two Reports together will be given the same weight as one examination.

GRADING: The three highest exam grades and your Reports grade will be averaged, and semester grades will be assigned as follows: 93-100, A; 90-92, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+; 73-76, C; 70-72, C-; etc. Reports submitted late will be penalized to some extent. Since only three exams will be counted, a student may elect to miss one of the exams. (NOTE: Attendance at the final exam is required by the rules of the College of Arts and Sciences; if you elect to skip this exam, you must still attend, and complete work assigned at that time.) Students are urged to save their "free" exam for emergencies that may come up, since a make-up exam will be given only if extraordinary circumstances are documented. Both Reports are required, for a passing course grade.

GRADUATE CREDIT: To obtain credit for Psychology 5092, additional work is required. This work will consist of a REVIEW PAPER covering some aspect of the field. Papers are due November 26, and should be approximately 20-30 typewritten pages in length. Subject matter must have prior approval of the instructor. In many cases, the writer will be asked to give an oral presentation to the class on the same subject.

OFFICE HOURS: M-W-F, 8:00-8:50 a.m., in Muenzinger D260B. Other times: By appointment, at IBG (IBG 206) on 30th Street, across from Scott Carpenter Park.

EXAM & REPORT DATES:
Exam 1, Friday, September 28
Exam 2, Monday, October 29
Exam 3, Friday, November 30
Exam 4, Wednesday, December 19
Report 1, Monday, October 22
Report 2, Wednesday, November 21
Report 3, Monday, December 16
Report 4, Wednesday, December 18

(Lectures, and Readings 1-3)
(Lectures and Readings 4-13)
(Lectures and Readings 14-23)
(All previous plus current lectures and Readings 24-27)
READING LIST #1 (for Exam #1)


READING LIST #2 (for Exam #2)


9. LeBoeuf, B. Social status and mating activity in elephant seals (Dr. LeBoeuf is sending a new reprint of this work; reference will be given in class).


12. Money, J. Human hermaphroditism. In F. Beach: (as above).

Prepare a one-page Report, following the outline shown below. Choose an article from those in the 1980 - 1990 issues of Hormones and Behavior. One page only. Use no cover page.

[Your Name]


I. SUMMARY Include the research question which was addressed, the methodology employed (subjects, apparatus, treatment, procedures), the results obtained, and the author's interpretation of the results. Strive to write this summary in such a fashion that someone who had not read the article would be able to understand the major aspects. Use the top half of page for this SUMMARY.

II. EVALUATION/CRTIQUE Use bottom half of the page for your evaluation of the article. Be fair but critical. Some considerations: Was the research question posed in a meaningful and testable way? Was the methodology adequate to test the question? Were adequate numbers of subjects employed? Were control groups adequate? Was the statistical treatment of the data adequate? Were the results presented in a clear and understandable way, without too much "interpretation" in the Results section? Was the author's discussion and interpretation of the results reasonable? Are there alternative interpretations? Did this article add something to our knowledge of the field?

Of course, you need not include all of these aspects in your EVALUATION--focus on what you consider to be the principal strengths and principal weaknesses.

Administrative Details

1. Two Reports are due: on or before October 22 and November 21, respectively.

2. Reports should be typewritten, single-spaced, on one page. Part of the assignment is to organize your thoughts and prepare a tight, brief Report. Do not use photo-reduction in an effort to include more material. Do keep a personal copy.

3. Reports will be graded and, together, weighted like one exam.

4. Failing reports will be returned for corrections--usually for an improved critique.

5. Exceptionally good reports will be considered for raising marginal course grades, e.g., 79% to 80% (C+ to B-).

6. Late or resubmitted reports will be penalized to some degree--perhaps 10% initially and 10% per week.

7. Do your own work. However, it is usually a good idea to have someone else proofread your copy. The grading emphasis will be on content and organization--especially on your evaluation/critique. Spelling and grammatical errors will be marked, and may affect your grade.

8. Two Reports are required from each student; without two passing Reports, the course grade awarded will be an F, regardless of exam grades.

9. The re-writes near the front of Science and Scientific American may furnish you useful ideas about writing Reports.