

BEHAVIORAL GENETICS
Biological Bases of Behavior 451/Psychology 407
Fall Semester, 2006: Monday 2:00-5:00 pm,
Location: TRL, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 125 South 31st Street
(Translational Labs on Campus Map)

Focus of course for Fall Semester 2006:

Genetic and environmental influences on obesity and related behaviors

Course Director:

Arlen Price 898-0214
Translational Research Laboratories
125 South 31st Street, Room 2201
Office Hours: Before or after class

Additional Faculty Participating in Course:

Wade Berrettini, Psychiatric and Eating Disorders, and Animal Models
Tracy Bale, Stress and Activity and Body Weight
Myles Faith, Eating Behavior
Dani Reed, Taste and Smell

Syllabus:

I. Basic Concepts

September

- 11 Course overview, basic genetics: Price
- 11 DNA sample: Reed
- 18 Complex inheritance: Price

II. Models and Findings

- 18: Taste and Smell: Reed
- 25 Animal Models: Berrettini
- 25 Stress: Bale

October

- 2 Psychiatric Genetics: Berrettini
- 2 More Methods: Price
- 9 Eating Disorders: Berrettini
- 9 Eating Behavior: Faith
- 16 Obesity: Price
- 16 Review, Questions & Problems: Price
- 23 Fall Break
- 30 Mid-term Exam

III. Seminar: Current Topics:

November

- 6 Review Exam, Introduction to Seminar Portion of Course: Price
- 6 Student presentations and discussion
- 13 Student presentations and discussion
- 20 Student presentations and discussion
- 27 Student presentations and discussion

December

- 4 Remaining Presentations and Course Review: Price
- ?? Comprehensive Final Exam (time to be announced)

Behavioral Genetics
BBB 451/Psy 407

Evaluation:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Student Seminar Presentation(s)* | 30% |
| Final Exam (Mostly New Material but Comprehensive) | 40% |

*Topics should be cleared in advance. Prior to each presentation, each student should schedule an individual meeting with Dr. Price and/or one of the other participating faculty members to discuss presentation.

Student Seminar Presentations

(Approximately 30-35 min plus 15-20 min discussion):

Objective: Present 1 or more related research papers published within the past three years (2003-2006).

Possible Presentation Outline:

- A. Give short background to place research in perspective, i.e., with other research.
- B. Briefly present methods, results and conclusions of each research paper
- C. Interpret results and evaluate critically

Evaluation of Seminar Presentations and Participation:

Quality of presentation and grasp of material.

Contribution to discussion of presentations by all students at every session is required.

(The latter is essential to making the seminar work. It also makes the sessions more interesting and fun.)

Seminar presentations will be covered on final exam.