

PSYC 1800 Seminar in Animal Models of Cognition  
Fall Semester 2008  
Course Syllabus



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**GOALS:** This is a seminar course covering topics related to animal models of cognition. You will learn about how different aspects of cognition are modeled in animals by reviewing the primary research literature. The course will be divided into three sections, each addressing one area of animal models of cognition.

**SCHEDULE:** We will meet once each week, on Fridays from noon to 2:30 in Hunter Laboratory, Rm 265.

**FORMAT:** For each segment, you will read and evaluate the selected research papers and participate in the class discussion. You will be required to give two or three short presentations during class on selected research papers and to write a paper at the end of the course. The format of the paper will resemble a referee's critique of a manuscript that has been submitted to a journal; you will be the referee, and I will provide the manuscript. There will be no exams or quizzes.

**TOPICS:** The course will be taught in three parts, each addressing a different theme. The first part will cover learning and memory, the second will cover attention, and the third will cover animal models of various disease states, including Alzheimer's disease, ADHD, depression and schizophrenia.

Part 1: Animal Models of Learning and Memory

Part 2: Animal Models of Attention

Part 3: Animal Models of Brain Pathology and Mental Disease

**EVALUATION:** Participation will include active discussion of weekly assigned papers, presentations during the semester, and one short paper. The assumption is that everyone will earn an A for the course. The best ways to reduce your grade are to come unprepared to participate, to come prepared but not participate, or not to come at all.