

Biology 434 – General and Comparative Endocrinology
Spring, 2007

Each person will lead the discussion during one class period. I will do the first one on Jan 26. During that class period you will give an introductory lecture on the topic and then lead a discussion of the assigned paper on that topic, which all students will read before class. You will be expected to synthesize data and concepts from several sources for your lecture (which will be made available on WebCT prior to class) and to involve the class in a discussion of the data and ideas in the assigned reading. The article to be assigned will be jointly agreed upon by the student and the instructor. It will be made available on WebCT at least 5 days before the class period in which it will be discussed.

Please review the topics and dates below. Pick your first and second choice and email these choices to me (cvleck@iastate.edu) **by Friday, Jan 26**. I hope to be able to assign you to your first or second choice. If you don't email me, then I'll assign you to an open slot.

You can choose from the topics already placed on a certain date, or if some topic on the lower list seems more interesting, choose it, and I'll fit it into the schedule, depending on the rest of the class.

Remember this assignment is worth 50 points to the presenter (out of 375). You will be graded on the quality of the information you present, the clarity of your powerpoint presentation, and your ability to lead a class discussion of the assigned article. Remember also that 50 additional points are assigned based on overall class participation, including on these discussions and the case studies.

Schedule for Discussion of Current topics in Endocrinology

- Jan 26 – C. Vleck, Role of MSH in color change – WE WILL MEET IN BESSEY RM 30 (basement)
- Feb 5 – Osteoporosis: hormonal causes and treatment
- Feb 19 – Metabolic syndrome
- Feb 26 – Hormonal control of appetite
- March 7 – Stress and wildlife biology
- March 21 – “Popular” use/abuse of hormones
- April 2 – Hormone replacement therapy: pros and cons
- April 11 – Annual cycles & Environmental Endocrinology
- April 18 – Aggression and territorial behavior
- April 25 – Parturition: hormonal interactions

Optional Topics:

- Reproductive technologies (birth control)
- Hormones in Invertebrates
- Epidemiology of thyroid deficiencies (iodine/diet)
- Stress and immune function
- Role of the pineal gland/melatonin
- Endocrine disruptors