IB Psychology SL- Period 3

Ms. Romaine

Distance Learning Week of 4/20/20

Lesson from Travis Dixon, https://www.themantic-education.com/ibpsych/

Weekly Class Check-In and Discussion (optional):

**Marianne Romaine is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Marianne Romaine's Zoom Meeting**

**Time: Apr 23, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[**https://zoom.us/j/7266845061?pwd=empMT0Z4WFVVM2krRjRCVm1PNnBrUT09**](https://zoom.us/j/7266845061?pwd=empMT0Z4WFVVM2krRjRCVm1PNnBrUT09)

**Meeting ID: 726 684 5061**

**Password: 9wnnjZ**

Our IB Psychology SL class has completed the study of approaches to researching behavior and the three core components (biological, cognitive, and sociocultural approach) to understanding behavior. The distance learning lesson for this week will focus on our option – Psychology of Human Relationships (Testosterone and Attraction). This lesson overlaps with the biological approach.

Key questions to think about are provided. Read the background information of the key study – Johnston et al. (2001). Watch the TED Talk *“It’s not you, it’s my hormones”* by Lisa Welling and respond to the questions (written part of assignment to turn in). Assignment due to [Marianne.romaine@polk-fl.net](mailto:Marianne.romaine@polk-fl.net) by 2:00 pm Friday, 4/24/20.

Key Questions:

* Why would procreating with a man with high testosterone be advantageous for a woman?
* How might hormones influence attraction?
* What might males find attractive in females?

Key Study - Johnston et al. (2001):

Testosterone is a sex hormone that is produced primarily in the testes of men, which is why it is considered the male sex hormone. It is responsible for the physical changes during puberty that help a boy become a man. Some of the effects of testos­terone are the growth of body hair, broadening of the shoulders, deepening of the voice, and lowering of the brow and squaring of the jaw – essentially, the development of “masculine” features.

There is a lot of research investigating attraction. Specific research focuses on comparing how a female’s menstrual cycle may influence what she finds attractive. Several different studies have all shown that females tend to have a stronger preference for masculine faces around the time of ovulation when they are most likely to become pregnant. Johnston et al. (2001) tested this by gathering 42 female participants from New Mexico State University in the lab and asking them to view male and female faces on a computer. The researchers created computer images that could be manipulated by the participants, so they could drag a cursor and make the faces more masculine or feminine. The researchers asked the participants to choose different faces that met different “targets.” For example, one of these targets was “an attractive male face,” so participants were asked to manipulate the face until it best met that description.

The results showed that when females were at the stage in their menstrual cycle with the highest chance of conception, they had a stronger preference for masculine faces. Of all the different targets (e.g. attractive female face, healthy looking male/ female face, etc.) the stage of their cycle only significantly changed their opinion on the “attractive male face.” This suggests that the attraction to a masculine face was higher around ovulation and less at other times, and it was the only preference that was affected by the changes in hormones that occur during the menstrual cycle.

These results corroborate other similar findings that suggest hormones play a key role in attraction in two ways. Levels of testosterone can influence a male’s attractive­ness by signifying his suitability as a mate. Also, the hormonal changes in a female during the menstrual cycle may also affect what type of male face she is more attracted and might increase the chances that during the fertile stage of her cycle she will be more attracted to signs of good genes for procreation.

Watch the TED Talk *“It’s not you, it’s my hormones”* by Lisa Welling (length 16:24) and respond to the following questions. Use complete sentences in your responses.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=it%27s+not+you+it%27s+my+hormones&docid=608016714207004495&mid=B14921A744C97188BA5AB14921A744C97188BA5A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

1. According to the research, what traits do people generally find attractive? (Three traits)
2. Why is sexual dimorphismattractive?
3. When is testosterone highest in females?
4. When do females find masculine faces most attractive?
5. What is a prototype face?
6. What is a “masculinized” face?
7. How do researchers find which types of faces females prefer? (Write in note form)
8. When a male’s testosterone is high, what type of face is he likely to prefer? (Masculine or Feminine)
9. How does competition influence attraction?