Appendix B
Lesson Plan for a Discussion Class

GOAL: Ensure that students understand findings of recent research on the neurochemical basis of aggressive behavior and explore the social and ethical implications of this kind of psychological research

LESSON: Review research readings, ask students to design studies that highlight the limits that ethical practice places upon scientific research, and explore broader ethical questions in this area

1. Class business:
   - Assign articles for next week’s information exchange
   - Have each student write down a question about yesterday’s lecture on an index card; collect these and ask a few people to volunteer questions (we’ll talk about the others next week)
   (10–15 minutes)

2. Review of recent research on the impact of noradrenaline and serotonin on aggressive behavior (let’s do this together to make sure we’re all on the same page):
   - Two students at board as the classmates share ideas: one student writing list of what we know about the relationship; one writing list of what we still do not know
   (10 minutes)

3. Group activity: In groups of three, come up with a study that would elaborate on our current understanding of the relationship between noradrenaline, serotonin, and aggressive behavior but would be unethical.
   (8 minutes)

4. Discussion based on activity: Have groups share their study and their ethical concern about it.
   - Do others agree that such a study would be unethical?
   (20 minutes?)
5. More general discussion (if time):
   • Should different ethical standards be applied to human and animal research?
   • Some would argue it is not “good science” to use results from animal studies to make assertions about human behavior. Do you agree? Why or why not?
   • If a drug did exist that drastically reduced aggressive behavior in humans, should it be made available for use? If so, on whom? Under what conditions, if any, could a person be required to take the drug?

6. Wrapping up:
   • Relate student points to the next set of readings about ethical science
   • Remind students of expectations for information exchange