

Why Drugs Anyway?

The Nature of Human
Craving for Ecstasy

Neurochemicals

- Acetylcholine/Choline:
 - Action, temperament, movement
- Norepinephrine/Epinephrine
 - Energy, control of dopamine
- Catecholamines
 - The most important addiction-related neurochemicals

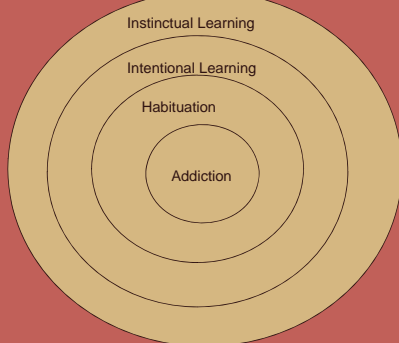
Catecholamines

- Serotonin
 - Moods, thought
- Endorphins
 - Endogenous opiates, pain killers relaxants
- Dopamine
 - Reward system/success
- GABA (Gamma-aminobutyric acid)
 - Regulates other catecholamines as inhibitor

Drug Actions

- ❏ Drugs take the place of, augment or deplete supplies of neurochemicals
- ❏ Drugs fit into neuroreceptor sites that are tailored to each neurochemical either blocking access or producing like effects
- ❏ Drugs slot according to isomer configuration
- ❏ Reuptake system signals nerve cell that originates production to slow or stop production

Learning Stages of Addiction



Intoxication vs. Half-Life

- ❏ Levels of intoxication
 - ❏ Initial effects
 - ❏ Impairment of function
 - ❏ Fully intoxicated
- ❏ Peak dose
 - ❏ Dose begins to fall from apex
- ❏ 1/2 life
 - ❏ Dose at which intoxication no longer felt
- ❏ Onset of Detox
 - ❏ Equal and opposite reaction to cumulative dose

