#2 - Making the brain happy

Neuron tour - axon, dendrite, soma, myelin, synapse

Motivation: Why do we do anything?

    a really reductionist & materialist idea

Olds and Milner (1954) make a cool mistake

    Self-stimulation in rats
    Will you kill yourself for pleasure?
    Is all pleasure the same type of pleasure?

nature and nurture

    Thorndike, his cat, and the law of effect
        reinforcement
        preparedness

consummatory and appetitive behaviors and pleasures

    drive reduction theory

Where do emotions come into all of this?

from hunger to thou shalt not murder

Empathy

    How does it work?

    What is it good for?
        Why isn't the world a better place?
            Is there a drive toward death (Freud – thanatos)
            Is aggression a drive?

Life is complicated (yeah, I know you know that)

    A math model of why you eat when you are not hungry (sort of)