

9.01 Study Questions

Lecture 26

1. What is the difference between habituation and adaptation?
2. What allows you to sit in a chair for long periods of time without feeling constant pressure on the backs of your legs? (What system is responsible for this ability?)
3. Describe examples of habituation in different sensory modalities: vision, audition, somatic sensation, olfaction. Do you think the process in these different modalities can be explained the same way?
4. A novel stimulus, in any modality, causes a transient arousal in what system?
5. What are some of the multiple components of the orienting response to novel stimulation?
6. Give a specific example of an orienting response and why it is important.
7. What does the lie detector measure? What system is the response caused by? Is such a machine infallible? In what sense? How is a lie similar to detection of stimulus novelty?
8. What is “stimulus generalization” in studies of the phenomena of habituation?