Allele	One of a series of different forms of a gene existing in a population
Amygdala	A brain structure consisting of multiple groups of neurons located deep underneath the cortex of the brain and thought to play a role in emotional learning
Anhedonia	An inability to experience pleasure in normally pleasurable situations
Apoptosis	An ordered sequence of chemical reactions leading to a variety of changes in and ultimate death of a cell
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor	A protein that encourages the growth and specialization of new neurons and helps to support the survival of existing neurons
Corticotropin-releasing factor	A peptide, secreted by the hypothalamus in response to stress, which stimulates release of corticotropin from the pituitary
Epigenetics	A change in gene expression that involves modifications to DNA and supporting proteins but that does not involve change in the actual DNA sequence of a gene
Glia	Cells with a variety of functions including support and protection of neurons
Glucocorticoid receptor	A protein activated by cortisol which regulates genes controlling a wide variety of processes involved in metabolism and maintenance of homeostasis
Growth factor	A naturally occurring protein released by cells to stimulate growth and specialization of other cells
Hippocampus	A brain region below the cortex thought to play a role in various brain functions including memory
Hypothalamus	A brain region located just above the brain stem which links the central nervous system to the endocrine system by secreting factors that stimulate or inhibit the release of hormones from the pituitary
Limbic system	A set of brain regions including the hippocampus and amygdala that are thought to support a variety of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive functions
Neuroimaging	The use of a technique to visualize the structure or function of the brain
Pharmacogenetics	The study of genetic variation that gives rise to different responses or tolerability to drugs between individuals
Pituitary	An endocrine gland at the base of the brain which secretes hormones, including hormones that stimulate other endocrine glands
Polymorphism	The existence of more than one form of a gene in a population
Raphe nuclei	A brain structure consisting of multiple groups of neurons in the brain stem involved in synthesis and release of the neurotransmitter serotonin
Selective serotonin	A class of antidepressant drugs which primarily influence the brain serotonin
reuptake inhibitors	system
Serotonin transporter	A protein that transports the neurotransmitter serotonin from the synaptic cleft back into the presynaptic serotonin neurons from which it was released.
Signal transduction	A process by which a cell converts a signal or stimulus into another by means of ordered sequences of chemical reactions driven by enzymes
Synapse	Specialized chemical junctions which allow nerve cells to communicate and form interconnected circuits with each other
Transcription	The process of copying DNA with the purpose of translating it into a protein
Tryptophan depletion	An experimental procedure in which participants ingest a mixture of amino acids that lacks tryptophan, the amino acid used to synthesize the neurotransmitter serotonin, thereby resulting in a temporary reduction in levels of serotonin in the brain