

Interoffice Correspondence

To: Council for Undergraduate Affairs and MCS College Council

From: Department of Biological Sciences

Date: October 27, 2003

Subject: Approval request for New Neurobiology Course

With the recent addition of three neurobiologists to our faculty, we are now positioned to develop new courses aimed at expanding our curricular offerings in this field. The Biological Sciences faculty unanimously approved this course proposal at their meeting on 10/14/03.

New Course Proposal:

Title: *Neural Plasticity in Sensory and Motor Systems*

Course Number: 03-761

Credits: 9 units, one, two-hour class meeting per week and out of class assignments

Semester: Spring, 2004

Instructors: Alison Barth, Justin Crowley, and Nathan Urban

Textbook: No textbook will be required. Readings from current literature will be the basis of course material.

Course Description:

Neural plasticity underlies the capacity of the central nervous system to encode new information, develop new abilities and adapt to the environment. Recent advances in experimental methodology have led to new insights on the biological mechanisms underlying neural plasticity. The topics of the papers chosen for review will center on recent experimental and theoretical studies of topics such as, synaptic plasticity, developmental and activity-dependent changes in sensory and motor maps.

Prerequisite(s): Biology of the Brain (03-360) or permission of the instructors.