Perceptual Learning

Assignments: Readings will be available at least one week before the class meeting, either for xeroxing (in Room 312 Psychology) or for downloading. All students are expected to attend class each week, to read all of the assigned papers and to be prepared to discuss the papers in class. Students must write commentaries on at least 10 topics. Commentaries should discuss a theoretical implication or an empirical extension of one or more of the assigned readings; they should be no more than one page in length (single spaced). Commentaries must be submitted by the beginning of class, at the latest. Students will be asked to discuss the issue raised in their commentary in class.

There will be a “paper blitz” held during class on April 15 at which each student will give a 10-minute presentation on an empirical paper related to, but not covered in, the class. A five-minute question and answer period will follow each presentation. Papers suitable for this assignment will be posted on the class web site. Students can present a paper that is not on that list, with instructor permission.

Class grade will be determined by the quality of student commentaries and participation in class discussion (90% in a roughly 60:40 ratio) and presentation (10%)

TOPICS. Note: This syllabus is being created as the semester proceeds. Topics and readings are subject to change, but will be set one week prior to the class meeting.

January 22: Deprivation and Neural plasticity
January 29: **Differentiation & Unitization**

February 5: **Feedback in Learning**

February 12: **Attention in Learning I**

Tuesday Feb 17, 4:30 PM: **Attention in Learning II: Learning without Awareness?**
Thursday, February 26: How does the perceptual system change with learning?

Thursday, March 4 Learning new spatial structures

Tuesday, March 9 4:30 PM Learning New Objects: Neural evidence (Note: day/time!)

Thursday, March 18: SPRING BREAK

Thursday, March 25 Expertise
Thursday, April 1: Adaptation

Thursday, April 8: Extracting Statistical Regularity of the Environment/ Bayesian Approaches

Thursday, April 15: Paper Blitz