GUIDELINES FOR NEURO 501

NEURO 501 Graduate Research Project
*3 (fi 6) (either term, 0-0-6). Individual study. Restricted to students in the Neuroscience Graduate Program. Students will spend one term in the laboratory of a faculty member and carry out a laboratory research project. Successful completion of an oral presentation is required at the conclusion of the project.

This course is to be taken under the supervision of a faculty member within the Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute (NMHI), (not including the student’s primary supervisor), unless permission is granted by the Course Coordinator to allow other faculty members to participate in a supervisory capacity.

COURSE WORK:
This laboratory course will involve the student taking part in a research project within the rotation supervisor’s laboratory, agreed upon by the supervisor and student. The student is not required to generate publishable data. A ‘pilot’ project related to ongoing primary research in the lab is appropriate. The main objective is to provide the student with the opportunity to learn a unique set of experimental skills outside of their laboratory. The student will prepare one written report and will give a 15 minute presentation at the end of the term. A second examiner must be appointed by the rotation supervisor to attend the exam and grade the paper (this cannot be the student’s primary program supervisor) and the 501 course coordinator will act as Chair of the oral exam.

REQUIREMENTS:
Individual requirements and the nature of the student-supervisor interactions should be discussed within the first week of term. A project abstract is required within the first two weeks of the term and must be approved by the course coordinator.

The average time a student should spend in the rotation lab is a MINIMUM OF 8 HOURS and a MAXIMUM OF 12 HOURS PER WEEK. This must be kept in mind when designing the project.

The written report should not exceed 15 double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references) and should be clearly written with a logical organization and flow of ideas. The report must include background of the research project with an overview of the current status of the field and must state the hypothesis of the research project. The methods used, results obtained, data analysis and discussion of the findings should follow. Any findings must be integrated into the current knowledge in the field and the student must demonstrate a clear understanding of the strengths and limitations of the techniques used. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in a failing mark. The report must be provided to the supervisor and second examiner at least one week prior the final oral exam.

A 15 minute oral presentation will be given by each student at the end of the term. Presentations will be graded by the rotation supervisor, course coordinator, and the second examiner of the paper. Immediately following the presentation, each faculty member may ask the student questions and provide feedback and suggestions regarding the presentation. Students may be asked to answer basic neuroscience/physiology questions outside the scope of their project.
**GRADING:**

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<tr>
<th>Written report:</th>
<th>Rotation Supervisor’s mark 25%</th>
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<td>Second faculty member’s mark 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation:</td>
<td>Agreed upon by faculty present 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory performance:</td>
<td>(Rotation Supervisor-assigned) 25%</td>
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The lab supervisor and the second examiner will mark the report on the percent scale and send the mark directly to the course coordinator **BEFORE** the oral presentation. The final overall grade will be determined by weighting each mark according to the distribution above. On the basis of the percentage grades, the course coordinator will assign the student a final grade.

The lab performance mark should consider the student’s diligence, technical competence at the bench, problem-solving ability, perseverance, motivation, and general aptitude for laboratory research.