

COMBINED JUNIOR THESIS PROPOSAL & NEURO 91 REPORT

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

**** NOTE: FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU ARE ENROLLED IN NEURO 91 & ARE CONSIDERING WRITING A THESIS ****

This report serves as the junior thesis proposal & the Neuro 91 final written assignment for students in their sixth semester (typically junior spring). Please email your thesis proposal/final report (described below) to James Poolner (jp@mcb.harvard.edu) by **5 PM on Tuesday, May 7th, 2019**. You must also submit a copy of your report to your lab director.

The Head Tutor and the Concentration Advisor will review your proposal, and you will be notified over the summer with feedback. This report should be submitted if you are considering writing a thesis, but does **not** obligate you to do so.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Laura Magnotti or Dr. Ryan Draft, Neuroscience Concentration Advisors (magnotti@fas.harvard.edu, draft@fas.harvard.edu).

Thesis Proposal/Final Report Instructions: **Do not exceed** a total of **7-8 pages (double spaced)**. Include the following:

- **Title:** Please include "Junior Thesis Proposal / Neuro 91 Final Report" in your title.
- **Background & Rationale:** In approximately 3-5 pages (double spaced), introduce your broad topic and provide a background for your research project. You should read the relevant literature and provide a context for the question(s) you plan to address. Begin this section by broadly introducing your topic, then focus in on any pertinent background studies (not just from your own lab but others as well), and eventually end with a statement of your specific research question/s. A reader should be able understand exactly why you are asking your question/s, based on what you describe in this background section about earlier work, current debates in the field, etc. You can think of this section as eventually being developed into your thesis introduction.
- **Experimental Approach:** In approximately 1-2 pages (double spaced), describe both the experiments you completed this semester as well as those you plan to complete in the coming year. Include the specific methods you have used/will use. Provide enough detail so that the reader will have a clear idea about what you plan to do in the lab. We will use this section to make sure that your project will be appropriate for a thesis in Neurobiology. Do not just describe the overall research plan of your host laboratory, but try to be specific about the work you plan to do. Your research director and your mentor should help you to define your specific role in the project. Also, make sure that your mentors read a draft of your proposal for suggestions and revisions.
- **References:** Provide key references regarding the background and experimental design of your project. Provide complete reference information (authors, year, title, journal, volume, pages numbers, etc.).

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY:

5 PM on May 7th

Email your report to your lab director and James Poolner (jp@mcb.harvard.edu)