

Department of Neuroscience

Thesis Writing Agreement

Term: **□** Fall **□** Spring of 20**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Student Name:**  |  |
| **PeopleSoft #:** | **Course** | **Grade Option** |
| **Phone: Email:** | **NROSCI 1962** | **Letter Grade** |
| **The goal of this course is to guide students in the process of writing a thesis paper based on original neuroscience-related research conducted under a faculty mentor’s supervision.** To be considered as a candidate for NROSCI 1962, you **MUST** have already collected a **MAJOR PORTION OF THE DATA TO BE REPORTED IN YOUR THESIS**. Typically, this means approximately 3 credits of NROSCI 1901 and 3 credits of NROSCI 1961, or the non-credit equivalent. Data collected collaboratively may be included, with clear and proper acknowledgment.  |
| **Thesis requirements:** |
| The thesis must be at least twelve pages of textual material in the format of a scientific paper. The required drafts and completed thesis must include: title page, abstract, literature review, description of the experimental methods, results section, discussion, and references. The twelve pages of textual material do not include the title page, figures, figure legends, tables, or references. A helpful resource is *Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences* by Victoria McMillan.  |
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| **Deadlines for thesis completion:** |
| □ **First full draft:** due at the end of week 6 of the term |
| □ **Second full draft**: due at the end of week 8 of the term |
| □ **Final draft:** due at the end of week 12 of the term. This final draft will be sent to the thesis reader for feedback. |
|  □ **Completed thesis:** due by the **WEDNESDAY of finals week**. **You will need to select a committee composed of your Thesis Research Mentor\* and at least one other faculty member to act as your Thesis Reader\*\*. One of these must be a primary or secondary faculty member from the Department of Neuroscience.** \*The Thesis Mentor may be the PI (Primary Investigator) of the lab, or a research faculty member or senior postdoc in the PI lab (please write the name of the PI in parenthesis after the mentor if they are different).\*\*The Thesis Reader can NOT be from the same lab as the Thesis Mentor. |
| **Required Signatures** |
| ***STUDENT: By signing below, I am agreeing to submit a thesis that is my own work, based on the suggestions of my faculty mentor and faculty reader. I agree to submit thesis drafts by the deadlines listed above and in the format indicated.***  |
| **Student Signature: Date:** |
| ***THESIS MENTOR: By signing below, I agree to mentor the student in the process of writing a scientific thesis based on work performed in a lab. I will determine the final grade in conjunction with the Faculty Reader and submit the final grade prior to the University grade deadline.*** |
| **Mentor Name: (please print)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Mentor Signature: Date:** |
| ***THESIS READER: By signing below, I agree to read the thesis and possibly suggest revisions for the above student.*****Reader Name: (please print)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Reader Signature: Date:** |
| ***DEPARTMENTAL AUTHORIZATION:* may be granted by any of the following: Dr. Sesack – sesack@pitt.edu, Dr. Johnson- jjohnson@pitt.edu, Dr. Artim – dea20@pitt.edu OR Dr. Fanselow – fanselow@pitt.edu****Department Signature: Date:** |
|  **Email completed form before the end of add/drop to** **lam303@pitt.edu** **for processing.** Rev 08/2020 |