GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Course Approval Form

For approval of new courses and deletions or modifications to an existing course.

registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/curriculum

Action Requested:

[x] Create new course [ ] Inactivate existing course

[ ] Modify existing course (check all that apply)

[ ] Title [ ] Credits, [ ] Repeat Status, [ ] Grade Type,
[ ] Prereq/coreq [ ] Schedule Type [ ] Restrictions
[ ] Other:

Course Level:

[x] Undergraduate
[ ] Graduate

College/School: COS **Department:** Neusroscience
Submitted by: Jane Flinn **Ext:** 4107 **Email:** jflinn@gmu.edu

Subject Code: NEUR **Number:** 450
(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.)

Effective Term: [x] Fall [ ] Spring [ ] Summer *Year* 2013

Title:
Current
Banner (30 characters max including spaces)
New: Honors Thesis Proposal

Credits: (check one) [ ] Fixed [x] Variable — or 2 to 3

Repeat Status: (check one) [x] Not Repeatable (NR) [ ] Repeatable within degree (RD) [ ] Repeatable within term (RT)
Maximum credits allowed: 3

Grade Mode: (check one) [ ] Regular (A, B, C, etc.) [x] Satisfactory/No Credit [ ] Special (A, B C, etc. +IP)

Schedule Type: (check one) LEC can include LAB or RCT
[ ] Lecture (LEC) [ ] Lab (LAB) [ ] Recitation (RCT) [ ] Internship (INT)
[x] Independent Study (IND) [ ] Seminar (SEM) [ ] Studio (STU)

Prerequisite(s):
NEUR 327; 335; 410 or 411, may be taken as co-requiste).
PSYC 300 or equivalent statistics course.
Permission of NAC undergraduate committee and thesis director.

Corequisite(s):

Instructional Mode:
[x] 100% face-to-face
[ ] Hybrid: ≤ 50% electronically delivered
[ ] 100% electronically delivered

Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code.
Approval by undergraduate NAC committee. Students must have completed a minimum of 60 hours and have GPA of 3.25 or better.

Are there equivalent course(s)? [ ] Yes [x] No
If yes, please list

Catalog Copy for NEW Courses Only (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)	**Notes** (List additional information for the course)
Work on proposal for thesis based a laboratory or field investigation under the guidance of a faculty member.	A total of 6 hours must be taken in NEUR 450 and 451. A minimum of 2 hours and a maximum of 3 hours may be taken in NEUR 450.

Indicate number of contact hours: Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 1-3 Hours of Lab or Studio:
When Offered: (check all that apply) [x] Fall [x] Summer [x] Spring

Approval Signatures

Department Approval Date College/School Approval Date

If this course includes subject matter currently dealt with by any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

For Graduate Courses Only

Graduate Council Member Provost Office Graduate Council Approval Date

Course Proposal Submitted to the Curriculum Committee of the College of Science

1. **COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: NEUR 450** Honors Thesis. Proposal

Course Prerequisites:
NEUR 327; 335; PSYC 300 or equivalent statistics course.

Catalog Description:
Work on proposal for thesis based a laboratory or field investigation under the guidance of a faculty member.

2. COURSE JUSTIFICATION:

Course Objectives:
To generate a thesis proposal in the field of Neuroscience by developing the following skills.
Working with an individual faculty member to learn more in depth about a particular area of Neurosceince.
Evaluating the current literature to determine a viable project.
Writing an thesis proposal with appropriate methods, data analysis and references.

Course Necessity:
The course will be part of two courses designed to meet the need expressed by both faculty and students for an Honors program in Neuroscience. The other proposed course is NEUR 451, Honors thesis.

Course Relationship to Existing Programs:

This course will provide an enhanced research experience to students in the Neuroscience program.

Course Relationship to Existing Courses:
The course will build on information gained in introductory neuroscience courses such as 327 and 335. The experience will build upon a writing intensive course 401 or 411 (411 is currently being proposed) and will require understanding of statistical techniques studied in PSYC 300 or equivalent statistics courses.

2. APPROVAL HISTORY:
No previous application has been made.

4. SCHEDULING AND PROPOSED INSTRUCTORS:

Semester of Initial Offering:

Fall 2013.

Proposed Instructors:
Dr Dan Cox, Dr Jane Flinn, Dr Giorgo Ascoli, any NAC faculty member or faculty member with an interest in Neuroscience.

5. TENTATIVE SYLLABUS: see attached.

Syllabus

Honors Thesis Proposal, NEUR 450

Students will develop a thesis proposal in conjunction with their advisor. The thesis committee will consist of three faculty, of whom at least two must be members of neuroscience advisory committee (NAC) information about which may be found on the Mason web site. Students will present an oral defence followed by approval of the written text. Students who have passed the oral defence may have to make changes before the text is approved. A proposal will normally be 8-10 pages in length, and must have references in a standard format used in one or more Neuroscience journals. Grading will be satisfactory/no credit. The Honor Code of George Mason University will be enforced in this course. It is a student's responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code and to abide by it. Once the thesis proposal is approved students may register for Honors Thesis, NEUR 451.