

## **BBS821 Oral defense of research proposal (January)**

1. The presentation will be ~40 min each with additional time for questions. You will be interrupted with questions by reviewers throughout. There will be 2 presentations per class with 2-4 faculty readers per proposal<sup>1</sup>.
2. You need to prepare materials to justify your hypothesis (background, significance, questions to be solved, rationale and published data supporting the hypothesis, and a model if appropriate) and describe the aims (expt approaches, description of essential techniques if they are not standard, expected outcomes, data interpretations, alternative possible answers to the questions). There needs to be sufficient coverage and details of your proposal since most of<sup>2</sup> your fellow students would not have read your proposal and they are expected to participate in discussion of strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.
3. Try to cover as much of the checklists (slide 5) of the Elements of Research Proposal that you received after the 10.1 class
4. The proposal will be evaluated based on both written (**Hypothesis; Treatment of Background; Experimental Details; and Interpretations/Alternative Outcomes**) and oral defense (**Presentation skill, clarity, organization; Knowledge**). The overall grade is from both the written and oral defense; however, weaknesses in written proposal can be improved during oral defense and the grade will be based on whichever is stronger.

### Notes

1. If faculty readers cannot attend the class, written critiques may be provided.
2. Format changed this year (2015-16) so that students will read 2 proposals