**Guidelines on How to write a Research proposal for**

**EEB 474 (Underclassman), or 475, 495 (Seniors)**

**General Format:** 2-4 pages long, double spaced.

**Your name, Your advisor’s name, Date of proposal**

**Title**: Create a title, which is informative, descriptive, and interesting. The title should also have ”Key words”, so people can find it when doing library searches.

**Abstract** (not necessary here)

**Introduction: (What is the project about?)**

You can add more detail to this section. State the research problem, which is often referred to as the purpose of the study. Provide the context and set the stage for your research question. Present the rationale of your proposed study and clearly indicate why it is worth doing.

State your hypothesis or theory, if any. For exploratory or phenomenological research, you may not have any hypotheses.

Set the delimitation or boundaries of your proposed research in order to provide a clear focus. Keep in mind that you are telling a story to an audience. Try to tell it in a stimulating and engaging manner.

**Methods: (How are you going to collect your data?)**

Again, here you can add new details to the methods if known. - How do you plan to carry out your study? What activities are involved? How long does it take? Try to demonstrate in detail that you know (or will be trained) how to collect data to test your hypothesis and answer your questions. Sometimes you can provide the experimental design and the statistics to be used (ANOVA, t-test, etc.).

**Results: (How are you going to analyze your data?)** Obviously, at the beginning of the semester, you do not have results at the proposal stage. However, by reading and talking to your adviser and lab mates, you should have a better idea about what kind of data you will be collecting, and what statistical procedures will be used in order to answer your research question or test your hypothesis. Describe there here in more detail if possible.

**Discussion: (What do your data mean? Contribution?)** You don’t have any results yet so you cannot interpret them. Again, here you can describe what you are expecting to find, and how those results will be significant; you can describe things in more detail, from your readings and conversation with your advisor and interactions with the people in the lab.

**Literature cited:** List **five or more** **references on** this topic, with one being the main one, most important.