RUBRIC FOR DISSERTATION OR THESIS

Task Description: Briefly review the background of the field, state the goals, aims or hypotheses of your research, showing how the research is important and addresses unknown questions. Explain your experimental or computational methodology and data analysis plan. Describe the results in terms of the questions or hypotheses, and demonstrate how the control experiments exclude alternative explanations of the results. Lastly, explain how your results relate to prior research, extend the field, open up new questions, etc.
A minimum score of "15" is required by all committee members to receive a passing score.

Dimension	**Excellent (4-5 points)**	**Competent (2-3 pts)**	**Needs work (0-1 pt)**
WRITING 20%	Ideas and description are well organized into paragraphs with good topic sentences. Paragraphs are logically ordered, with good transitions between paragraphs and between topics. Sentences are clearly understandable.	Some paragraphs contain a mix of different topics. Paragraphs are not always related to prior or following paragraphs, or transitions between paragraphs are poor. Sentences are somewhat understandable.	Most paragraphs contain a mix of different topics, and descriptions of single topics are scattered throughout multiple paragraphs. Paragraphs have no logical order. Sentences are unintelligible.
CONTENT - Background 20%	Student has identified a highly significant question in bioscience. Goals of research are clearly stated. Displays superior knowledge and understanding of prior research in the field.	Student has identified a somewhat significant question in bioscience. Goals of research are stated somewhat vaguely. Displays basic knowledge and understanding of prior research in the field.	Significance of question to be addressed is uncertain. Goals of research are unclear. Unaware or confused about several areas of prior research.
CONTENT - Methodology and Data Analysis Plan 20%	Methodology / Data Analysis Plan is well designed to address the question or hypothesis; it includes appropriate controls. Proposed analysis is clearly explained, and demonstrates superior understanding of relevant statistical tests.	Methodology / Data Analysis Plan approaches or partly addresses the question or hypothesis; controls are included, but not sufficient. Analysis plan demonstrates moderate understanding of relevant statistical tests.	Methodology / Data Analysis Plan is poorly designed - it will not address the question or hypothesis; no controls are included. Incorrect or missing explanation of how results will be analyzed.
Dimension	**Excellent (7-10 points)**	**Competent (4-6 pts)**	**Needs work (0-3 pt)**
CONTENT - Results and Discussion 40%	Results clearly answer the research question and are presented with appropriate use of graphs and tables. Analysis of results is clearly explained, and demonstrates superior understanding of statistical tests. Interpretation of results in the context of prior research and knowledge demonstrates their significance and implication for the field as a whole.	Results partly answer the research question. Graphs and tables are moderately explicative. Analysis of results demonstrates modest understanding of statistical tests. Interpretation of results in the context of prior research and knowledge is weak. The significance and implication of the results for the field are modest.	Results do not answer the research question or test the hypotheses. Graphs and tables are incorrectly used or absent. Analysis of results is poorly explained, and demonstrates lack of understanding of statistical tests. The significance and implications of the results for the field of interest are unclear.

Score (0 to 5 points for writing, background and methods/data analysis plan; 0 to 10 points for results/discussion): _____ out of 25

STUDENT NAME: _____COMMITTEE MEMBER NAME: _____

DATE_____