

CHEM 282 – Undergraduate Seminar: Spring 2018

Course Description:

Oral and written presentation of a subject of current chemical interest.

Learning Goals:

1. To apply knowledge of chemical and physical principles
2. To be able to read and critically evaluate the chemical and scientific literature
3. To learn to present scientific data clearly and effectively through both written and verbal communication

Lecture:

Official class time is both Monday and Wednesday 3:30 - 4:45 pm in Waterman 427, but formal class meetings will be limited. Firstly, we will only meet **Wednesday 3:30 - 4:45 pm** in Discovery W407 until the actual formal presentation dates. These meetings will not be every week (see details below). You will be informed/reminded in advance by e-mail via Blackboard of the class meetings.

Each student's presentation will occur during a Wednesday class time at the end of the semester. There will be two seminars presented per 75 min class period. The location for the seminars will be **Waterman 427**. All faculty and students in the Department of Chemistry will be invited to attend these seminars.

Text:

None

Course Instructor:

Dwight E. Matthews: Dwight.Matthews@uvm.edu 656-8114 Discovery W322

Office hours:

Scheduled per student need

UVM Policy on Absences:

Religious Holidays: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Students should submit in writing by the end of the 2nd full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester if there are any conflicts with the class or laboratory schedule.

Inter-collegiate Athletics: Members of UVM varsity and junior varsity teams are responsible for documenting in writing any conflicts between their planned athletic schedule and the class (& laboratory) schedule by the end of the 2nd full week of classes.

UVM Policy on Academic Integrity:

Offenses against the Code of Academic Integrity are deemed serious and insult the integrity of the entire academic community. Any suspected violations of the code are taken very seriously and will be forwarded to the Center for Student Ethics & Standards for further investigation.

Introduction

The ability to communicate science in a clear and understandable way is a critical skill. Over the past few years you have had ample opportunity to prepare standardized scientific reports and have gained experience in writing scientific reports and in oral presentations. All of this practice is important because clear expression through writing and speaking is a prerequisite for a successful career in science. The purpose of the seminar course is to provide a structured

opportunity to continue developing your writing and oral presentation skills as a capstone experience. The remainder of the syllabus outlines the steps you will follow in this process.

Components

1. **Oral presentation.** Will occur at the end of the semester (see time table at the end) during our regularly scheduled seminar period. Two presentations will occur per seminar period. You will be expected to speak for 25 min. If your talk is substantially shorter, you will be penalized in your grade. You also cannot go over 30 min. due to the constraints of the room schedule. There will be a period of 5 min. for the audience to ask questions at the end of your seminar. The presentation will be professionally prepared and presented using Microsoft PowerPoint (or other software such as Apple Keynote).
2. **Written synopsis.** As a synopsis, the written paper will summarize the key elements of your talk. The written paper is described later and will be 5-10 pages in length. The paper is to be submitted and distributed to the faculty ahead of your talk.

Evaluation – how your grade in CHEM 282 is determined

The chemistry faculty members that attend your presentation will provide feedback using a categorized, standard form. Each faculty member will also assign a letter grade to each category and your overall performance.

Your grade in the course will be weighted on the following factors:

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| 1. Written Paper (organization, clarity, use of language) | 20% |
| 2. Content (depth of knowledge and scope) | 40% |
| 3. Presentation (slides, organization, continuity, speaking style, etc.) | 40% |