

Chem318: Current Topics in Chemistry, 1.0 credits

Fall 2020 Lecture

F, Teams meeting at 10:50 am

Instructor

Prof. Matt Liptak

(802) 656 – 0161

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Discussion / Office Hours

Please contact me via e-mail: matthew.liptak@uvm.edu

Technical support for students

Students, please read this technology check list to make sure you are ready for classes.

<https://www.uvm.edu/it/kb/student-technology-resources/>

Students should contact the Helpline (802-656-2604) for support with technical issues

Prerequisites

Graduate Standing

General Education Requirements

This course does *not* satisfy any general education requirements

Course Description

From the course catalogue: "Survey of current topics in the *inorganic* chemistry literature."

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of Chem 318, it is anticipated that you will:

1. Increase your understanding of aspects of inorganic chemistry outside your research project.
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of other chemical sub-disciplines.
3. Improve your ability to critically analyze and critique the inorganic chemistry literature.

Modality Description

All course meetings will take place via Microsoft Teams.

Web Content

Journal articles to be discussed will be posted to Blackboard (bb.uvm.edu). These materials are available for all current, UVM-affiliated, students, but they may not be shared off-campus without permission of the instructor.

Course Meetings will be carried out using Microsoft Teams.

Attendance Policy

You are required to attend: all Chem 318 seminars *and* all departmental seminars.

Grading

Your grade will be based upon your presentation of a current inorganic chemistry research article from the primary literature.

General statement regarding potential changes during the semester:

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/>

The University of Vermont reserves the right to make changes in the course offerings, mode of delivery, degree requirements, charges, regulations, and procedures contained herein as educational, financial, and health, safety, and welfare considerations require, or as necessary to be compliant with governmental, accreditation, or public health directives.

Green and Gold Promise:

The [Green and Gold Promise](#) clearly articulates the expectations that UVM has for students, faculty, and staff to remain compliant with all COVID-19 recommendations from the federal CDC, the State of Vermont, and the City of Burlington.

The [Code of Student Conduct](#) outlines policies related to violations of the Green and Gold Promise. Sanctions for violations include fines, educational sanctions, parent notification, probation, and suspension.

Intellectual Property Statement/Prohibition on Sharing Academic Materials:

Students are prohibited from publicly sharing or selling academic materials that they did not author (for example: class syllabus, outlines or class presentations authored by the professor, practice questions, text from the textbook or other copyrighted class materials, etc.); and students are prohibited from sharing assessments (for example homework or a take-home examination). Violations will be handled under UVM's Intellectual Property policy and Code of Academic Integrity.

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

I strive to create a classroom environment that supports students from a diverse set of backgrounds. Our society is composed of individual from diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds. Half of our society are women. I strongly believe that our best path forward to a stronger and more equitable society is to promote inclusiveness.

It is my expectation that every member of this class will also support diversity and inclusion. As a community, we should strive to uphold the ideals of Our Common Ground:

<https://www.uvm.edu/president/our-common-ground>

I welcome any suggestions as to how I can promote a diverse and inclusive classroom.

Guidelines

If you are registered for one credit, you will need to select a recent paper from the inorganic chemistry literature and prepare a brief presentation. If you are registered for zero credits, you may be asked to give a short presentation on your own research. On the weeks you are not presenting, you are expected to attend Chem 318B and participate in the discussion.

Selection of a paper (literature seminars)

You should select a paper from the recent inorganic chemistry literature, where I define *recent* as published after January 1, 2020. Your chosen paper should *not* be directly related to your own research. You may choose from a high impact, general interest journal (*JACS*, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, *Science*, or *Nature*). You may also choose from any Inorganic chemistry journal (e.g. *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Organometallics*, *Dalton Transactions*, etc.) All papers must be approved by me at least 7 days in advance.

Presentation

Your presentation should be relatively brief (20-30 minutes). Everyone has a different presentation style, but for me this would be approximately 10-15 PowerPoint slides. For a literature seminar, you should provide the audience with the appropriate background information, highlight the key results, and provide a critical commentary of the data and its relevance to the field of inorganic chemistry. For a research seminar, you should also provide the audience with more background information than may be typical for a group meeting due to the diversity of our supergroup.

Discussion

As a presenter, your job is to moderate an exciting discussion of the paper. One way to do this is to pose one to two open-ended questions to the audience for discussion. As an attendee, you are expected to participate in the discussion by asking questions, presenting ideas, and relating any relevant literature.

Time Commitment

Preparing these presentations should not be exceedingly time-consuming. The expectation is that you will read the presented paper and relevant background papers. But, you are not expected to become an expert in the field overnight. You can also save yourself time by re-using the original artwork from the manuscript (with appropriate citations of course).

E-mail

I will respond to all e-mails within one working day. Unfortunately, due to my numerous commitments at UVM, I typically do not have the ability to respond immediately.

University-wide Policies and Procedures

Student Learning Accommodations

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact SAS, the office of Disability Services on campus. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to faculty in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with their faculty to discuss the accommodations they plan to use in each course. A student's accommodation letter lists those accommodations that will not be implemented until the student meets with their faculty to create a plan.

Contact SAS:

A170 Living/Learning Center;

802-656-7753;

access@uvm.edu

www.uvm.edu/access

Religious Holidays

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/religious-holidays>

Academic Integrity

The policy addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating.

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

Grade Appeals

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy:

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf>

Grading

For information on grading and GPA calculation, go to <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/grades>

Code of Student Conduct

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf>

FERPA Rights Disclosure

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/ferparightsdisclosure/>

Promoting Health & Safety

The University of Vermont's number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community:

Center for Health and Wellbeing

<https://www.uvm.edu/health>

Counseling & Psychiatry Services (CAPS)

Phone: (802) 656-3340

C.A.R.E.

If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at <https://www.uvm.edu/studentaffairs>

Final Exam Policy

The University final exam policy outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/final-exams>

Statement on Alcohol and Cannabis in the Academic Environment

As a faculty member, I want you to get the most you can out of this course. You play a crucial role in your education and in your readiness to learn and fully engage with the course material. It is important to note that alcohol and cannabis have no place in an academic environment. They can seriously impair your ability to learn and retain information not only in the moment you may be using, but up to 48 hours or more afterwards. In addition, alcohol and cannabis can:

Cause issues with attention, memory and concentration

Negatively impact the quality of how information is processed and ultimately stored

Affect sleep patterns, which interferes with long-term memory formation

It is my expectation that you will do everything you can to optimize your learning and to fully participate in this course.

Course Schedule

September 11 – Aarzo Grover

September 25 – Bradley Cech

October 9 – Steven Dannenberg

October 23 – Taylor Kocian

November 6 – Bruce Lickey

November 20 – Diego Javier-Jimenez