

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Chemistry
Course Information

CHEMISTRY 3790

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR

SPRING 2008

Instructor: Dr. Tim Wagner
Rm. 5034 Ward-Beecher; 941-1960
Office Hours: M–F: 10:00-11:00 or by appointment
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Schedule: Wednesday, 3:00-4:50; Rm 5055, Ward Beecher Hall

Course Description:

The oral presentation is one of the most important ways that scientists communicate their latest results and ideas to their colleagues. This course is designed to introduce students to this important form of scientific communication through training them in methods for critiquing and presenting chemistry seminars.

Course Assignments:

1. All CHEM 3790 students are required to attend the departmental seminars held on Friday afternoons starting at 3:00 pm, in Rm. 6030 of Ward Beecher Hall. (Note: We will not meet on any Friday for which there is no departmental seminar - check seminar schedule.)
2. For each seminar given by a visiting speaker, students must write a two or three paragraph summary of the seminar, indicating the topic covered, the methods used (or to be used) to collect data, and the main result obtained. Also indicate how effective the seminar was in communicating new ideas to you, or in helping to explain concepts you previously saw in your coursework. Each summary will be worth 5 points, and the total score at the end of the semester will be converted to maximum 40 point scale.
3. Each student will present a 15-20 minute seminar on some topic of interest to them to the class. If you are doing undergraduate research, your seminar should be based on your project. Otherwise, you should find a paper in a professional journal of chemistry (e.g. Journal of Analytical Chemistry, Journal of Chemical Education, etc.) and present a seminar based on this paper. You must use PowerPoint for your seminar, and provide the instructor with a copy of the PowerPoint document. Seminars will be given during the last few weeks of the semester.

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Course Syllabus
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Tips For Presenting Seminars

1. In preparing your seminars, assume that the audience consists of people with varied science backgrounds, as opposed to fellow experts in your field. Arrange your talk so that you start out with an introduction of topics you will cover, followed by general background information on concepts/techniques/theories used, and finally, end up with a discussion of the specific results or details obtained. In general, everyone should be able to understand your background discussion, but only those with some background in your topic will understand everything you say in your detailed discussion.
2. Note the following when preparing slides:
 - The letters should be at least 1/4" high on the transparency, so that everyone in the audience will be able to read it. A 20-point font or greater should be adequate.
 - Avoid cramming too much information on one slide; one concept or set of results per overhead is ideal. There should be no more than six lines per slide.
 - Make sure you don't have more slides to present than your allotted time allows for. One slide per one or two minutes gives a fairly good estimate of the number of slides you need, although the best way to determine this is by practicing your talk.

Basis of Grading

<u>Grading Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Seminar Reviews	40	A	90-100
		B	80-89
Seminar	<u>60</u>	C	70-79
		D	60-69
Total	100	F	59 or less

Students With Disabilities: In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with CSP Disability Services, which is located at Wick House, and provide a letter of accommodation to verify your eligibility. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372.

Incomplete Grade Policy: According to The University's incomplete grade policy, if no formal grade change occurs within one year, the "I" automatically converts to an "F." If graduation occurs within the one-year time period, the Incomplete Grade will be converted to an "F" before graduation.