

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Chemistry
Course Information

CHEMISTRY 6981

SEMINAR I

SPRING 2008

Instructor: Dr. Tim Wagner
Rm. 5005 Ward-Beecher; 941-1960
Office Hours: M–F: 11:00-12:00 or by appointment
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Schedule: Tuesday, 3:15-5:00; Rm. 6030, 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. It is expected that students have presented seminars in previous courses, most likely on papers from the literature or research projects they have been assigned. The main objective of this course is to guide students in the preparation of their MS thesis research proposal, which they will present as a seminar to the entire department.

Course Assignments:

1. All CHEM 6981 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 20 point scale. NOTE: For any seminar during which a student asks the speaker a relevant question, they will be excused from turning in the written summary.
3. Each student must turn in a written proposal of the research they propose to do for their thesis project. The proposal will be due one week before the student seminar is given. This does not need to be a full proposal with literature review, etc., but rather a summary of your proposed research as you might present it in a 'Statement of the Problem' chapter in your thesis.
4. Each student will present a 15-20 minute seminar based on their written research proposal. You must use PowerPoint for your seminar, and provide the instructor with a copy of the PowerPoint document. Seminars will be given to the department during the last few weeks of the semester. You will get full credit (60 points) for presenting the seminar. Please turn in to me a printout (6 slides per page) of your PowerPoint presentation prior to your talk.

(over)

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	20	A	90-100
		B	80-89
Written Proposal Seminar	20	C	70-79
<u>Seminar</u>	<u>60</u>	D	60-69
Total	100	F	59 or less

Students With Disabilities: In accordance with University procedure, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Disability Services at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services (941-1372) intake procedure.

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.