



Temple University
A Commonwealth University

College of Science & Technology
Department of Chemistry

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CHEMISTRY 982

Graduate Seminar

Fall 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS (*tentative; 8/30/05*)

Instructor: Allen W. Nicholson, Ph.D.
Office address: 350 Beury Hall
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Email address: anichol@temple.edu
Course meeting time: Tuesdays, 4-5 PM
Course location: 162 Beury Hall

Course Information

This course is taken by chemistry graduate students in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the Doctoral or Master's degree. The goal of this course is to provide an opportunity for the graduate student to develop skills in the oral presentation of research in an open forum. There are two basic types of presentation topics: (i) Dissertation/Thesis research topic, and (ii) literature-based research on a chemistry topic unrelated to the dissertation/thesis research. By developing and presenting a research-based talk, and answering questions from an audience that consists of other students and faculty, the student is given the opportunity to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the subject. Also for the benefit of the student, an anticipated outcome is an increased confidence in effectively communicating scientific information.

A letter grade will be assigned by the course instructor. The grade will be based on the quality and clarity of the spoken delivery and the visuals (i.e., slides), and the ability to effectively answer questions. The course instructor also will solicit comments on the presentation from the faculty in attendance. An appropriate presentation sequence would be (i) Introduction/Background; (ii) Presentation of key problems/questions; (iii) Results & Analysis; and (iv) Summary & Conclusions.

Dissertation/thesis research presentations should be 45-50 minutes long. Literature research presentations should be 20-25 minutes long. The presentation should be in Powerpoint format. Please contact me ahead of time if this is not possible. *Given the criteria for grading it is highly recommended that the student give a practice talk in advance with his/her advisor.*

A title and abstract (all on one page) of the presentation must be provided to the course instructor no later than two weeks prior to the presentation. The title + abstract can be sent as a pdf to the course instructor.

All students registered for the course are required to attend all the lectures. Moreover, attendance by *all other* graduate students is expected, and will be duly recognized.

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately and as soon as possible to discuss the specific situation.