Chemical Literature Seminar
CHEMISTRY 410 (1 hr)

Thursday, 8:00-9:00 Room 103 CFS

Prof. Chasteen; No assigned textbook.

Office hrs. 10-11 am: 12-1 pm MFW; 9:30-noon am TTh; E-mail Office hours **anytime**

Chemistry 410 is a seminar course in chemistry.

1. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be allowed 3 class absences without penalty. Any absences over 3 classes will result in final grade reductions.

2. Each student enrolled in this course is required to present a 15-20 minute seminar on a peer-reviewed research paper available in the scientific literature or their on-going scientific research. The subject may come from any field of chemistry (analytical, biochemical, environmental, forensic, inorganic, organic, or physical).

3. The paper will be selected from the current literature (journals) and submitted for approval to Dr. Chasteen at least 2 weeks prior to the presentation date. Literature **review articles** are not acceptable. The stipulation that it must be a peer reviewed journal is sometimes difficult. Please contact your instructor well in advance if you have any questions about determining which journals are peer-reviewed. Presentation dates will be chosen on the first day of class. Students presenting at a scientific meeting that semester have priority for earlier presentation dates. Contact a faculty member in your field of interest if you need help selecting a paper. **Missing this (2-week precheck) deadline is the single most common grade lowering error of this course.** Please reread that sentence**.**

4. A written one paragraph summary of the topic (paper) being presented must be available in the Chemistry office by 2:00 two days before the day when your presentation is made. Your grade in the course will be one letter grade lower if you do not meet this deadline. If no abstract is available one day prior to your presentation day your course grade will be zero. The maximum length of the abstract's body text is limited to 200 words.
The abstract will be entitled with the literature paper's title and will list all of the authors, the journal citation (journal name, volume, year, inclusive page numbers), and **your name**. Pay attention to the format for the citation below. Note that the journal abbreviation is italicized; the year is bold, etc. No footnotes will be included in the abstract. Do not list the company or school affiliations, or degrees (Ph.D. BS., etc) of the authors. **Make sure the citation ends with a period.** For instance:

Smith, S.; Jones, T.; Docent, G., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2002**, *34*, 123-126.

If the article you're using is an article in press the citation becomes:

Smith, S.; Jones, T.; Docent, G., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2006**, in press.

Copying the abstract of your journal paper for your summary is not allowed—this is plagiarism. This is very important. Copying the abstract will result in an F in the course. Period. You must learn to succinctly summarize the important points—that you will present—yourself. Reading lots of abstracts will help you to do this. Please ask a faculty member if you need help.

5. All students in this course are required to pick up and read a copy of the summary of the talk that week **two days before the scheduled talk**. They will be on the table in front of Ms. Johnson's office (CF317b).

6. Your verbal presentation of the paper that you have selected should include:

a. A brief background of the subject

b. A discussion of the procedures and results of the paper

Leave out superfluous details (experimental volumes used, temperatures, etc.) unless they're important. Inclusion of superfluous detail will lose grade points.

c. Conclusions and/or implications based on the results

d. Include graphic images as a visual aid to the presentation (See PowerPoint section)

Make your images clear—small, poorly labeled graphics are bad. Make the images large enough to be read in the back of a room with 80 seats.

Don't include anything in a graphic that you don't want to explain—too much detail in a graphic can be confusing to your audience.

You may scan figures, tables, and images from you paper if necessary but complex tables should be reduced to include only what is useful to your talk. Digitally cutting images, table, reactions from your paper's PDF file is best.

Use your graphic images as a means of triggering your verbal presentation. Try not to read directly from your slides nor from index cards if possible.

Be able to pronounce correctly all words on every slide—especially chemical terms.

Make sure you use correct chemical notation (subscripts, superscripts, etc.) in all slides and in your article abstract.

7. Your entire talk must be presented as a PowerPoint presentation. This requires that you prepare your talk's Microsoft PowerPoint file in advance and check out how it works on a Windows computer prior to the talk. You are responsible for how your presentation displays. CDs you burn yourself or files transported via a disc-on-key (Flash drive, Memory Stick) or network access of your S Drive (if it's healthy) are fine, but talk to Chasteen in advance about how you plan to access your PowerPoint file.

8. A period of 5 minutes will be allowed for questions from your audience after you finish as well as spontaneous questions from your audience **during** your talk. A request by a speaker for the audience to hold questions (until the speaker has finished) will probably not be heeded.

9. Presentations will be evaluated by all students and faculty in attendance (see attached sheet). You are required to pay close attention to the talk that someone else gives and fairly evaluate that talk based on the categories on the evaluation sheet. The members of the audience will be evaluated by the faculty as to their attentiveness and ability to **ask questions of the presenter**.

Chemistry Seminar Evaluation Sheet

The Speaker's Name _____

Your Name _____

Give careful consideration to the following points about the seminar you have just heard and rate the points accordingly. You may take notes during the seminar that you want the presenter to read later. For the following, provide a rating using a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest rating. Space is left for comments which are encouraged. Add up your points for the final evaluation score.

1. The abstract, which you were required to read, was a clear summary of the material presented in this seminar. It mentioned the important points of the research and the results. _____

2. The speaker seemed to be familiar with the material and understood what the paper being presented was about. _____

3. The speaker was able to distinguish the major ideas of the seminar from the supporting material: Superfluous minute details were not unnecessarily presented and important details were included. _____

4. The speaker spoke clearly and distinctly. _____

5. The speaker's presentation materials were clear and useful for the presentation; writing was large enough and graphs were easily read. _____

6. The speaker answered questions well. _____

7. What were the good points of the seminar? What could be corrected?

8. Your overall evaluation of the seminar. (Add all your points from above.) _____ (0—30)

CHEMISTRY 410 Schedule (spring 2008)

1/18/2008	First class day	
1/25/2008	_____	_____
2/1/2008	Scifinder Scholar training (Library Room NGL 200; 1 PM)	
2/8/2008	_____	_____
2/15/2008	_____	_____
2/22/2008	_____	_____
2/29/2008	_____	_____
3/7/2008	_____	_____
3/14/2008	Spring break	
3/21/2008	Good Friday	
3/28/2008	_____	_____
4/4/2008	_____	_____
4/11/2008	_____	_____
4/18/2008	_____	_____
4/25/2008	_____	_____
5/2/2008	_____	_____