

Chemical Literature Seminar

CHEMISTRY 510 (5100) (1 hr)

Thursday, 8:00-9:00

Room 101 CFS

Prof. Chasteen; CFS317e; 936) 294-1533. No assigned textbook.

Office hrs. 10-11 am: 12-1 pm MW; 8:00-9:30 am T; 9-noon Th; E-mail **anytime**; chasteen@shsu.edu

Chemistry 510 is a seminar course in chemistry.

Course Objectives: To develop specific skills needed by scientific professionals in the field of chemistry
To develop skills in expressing descriptions of scientific experimentation orally and in writing.

1. Attendance is mandatory.

2. All students 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** on their on-going scientific research. The subject may come from any field of chemistry (analytical, biochemical, environmental, forensic, inorganic, organic, or physical). For first semester graduate students presenting either a paper or your research is acceptable. For graduate students beyond the first semester, the presentation must center on your research.

3. For a literature presentation, 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 pre-check) 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 or your research) being presented must be available in the Chemistry office by 11 am 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 at 11 am 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.

If you're presenting a literature paper, your abstract will be entitled with the 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. , Dr. , BS., etc) of the authors. **Make sure the citation ends with a period.** For instance:

Smith, S.; Jones, T.; Docent, G., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2010**, *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.* **2011**, in press.

An abstract describing your research will have your name and the name of your research advisor and any additional workers appropriate. Again, leave off author titles such as Dr. Ask your instructor if there are any questions about this author list.

For literature presentations, 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.

If you are presenting work from your research group that has already been abstracted and presented elsewhere that's OK but you must write a new abstract yourself with no help from your research advisor. The formal abstract writing exercise is ~15% of this course's grade and so submitting a prewritten abstract from your group is not OK. Read that sentence again.

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. Haines'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, instrument model numbers, etc.) unless they're very 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 your 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 OK, but talk to Chasteen in advance about how you plan to access your PowerPoint file.

8. If you include data from outside the paper you've chosen, then provide a readable citation at the bottom of the slide where that data is presented. Do not provide a bibliography at the end of your talk. If you are presenting your own research group's work—some data that's yours and some for others in your group—then you need not provide a citation on slides presenting work from other group members even if you weren't involved in generating that particular data. This is routinely taken care in the scientific community by including an **acknowledgement slide** at the talk's end that recognizes the workers that contributed research to your talk if they weren't in the talk's author list.

9. 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.

10. 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 your instructor as to their attentiveness and ability to **ask questions of the presenter**. If you do not ask questions week after week you will be called upon to ask a question. If this occurs repeatedly then your course grade will suffer.

11. A bit about Digital Object Identifier (DOI; see www.doi.org). A DOI address in the case of scientific publications are used to allow access to digitally available documents with one address no matter where the publisher stores the file. Once a paper has been accepted for publications—following the peer review process—a DOI address is assigned and once that address is published—it's usually sent to the authors as soon as it becomes available—submitting that address to the DOI server (example: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-6976.2009.00177.x>) will send you to at least the abstract of the document and often to a digital version of the entire document.

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. The citation format was correct. _____

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. External material was correctly referenced. _____

6. The speaker answered questions well. _____

7. Your overall evaluation of the seminar. (Add all your points from above.) _____

(0—30)