

Research Presentation Techniques

Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Spring 2009

Instructor	Dr. William Simpson (NSF 186, IARC 335, 474-7235, 474-2436 ffwrs@uaf.edu)
Office Hours	Monday 4:00 – 5:30, REIC 186
Meeting time	4:00 - 5:30PM Thursday, REIC 165

Course Description (from catalog)

Review of recent research in chemistry to expose students to recent findings, methodologies and concepts in a broad range of chemistry and related disciplines. How to present and defend research proposals. Course may be repeated for credit. Special fees apply. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in physical sciences or permission of instructor. (1+0)

Course Overview:

Chemistry 691 is designed to give graduate students practice in oral presentation techniques that include presentation of their research and defense of research proposals / scientific ideas. These skills are critical for success of our graduate students. For students who seek employment in industry, these skills will assist in successful interviewing and interaction with colleagues once employed. For academic-bound students, these skills are critical to their job placement and performance.

Course Structure :

The course will meet weekly for a 90-minute session. The instruction begins with lectures on oral presentation skills by the instructor, followed by student presentations and defense. Each student will:

- 1) Make a research presentation, either taken from their research or from the literature.
- 2) Defend their research presentation in the style of an oral defense of a M.S. thesis or a Ph.D. oral comprehensive, depending on the student's program.
- 3) Ask questions of the other students in their presentations.

In addition to the student presentations, the lecture may be given by faculty members or others interested in chemistry. In the case of an external speaker, the students must still participate by asking questions of the speaker.

Students with disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services in the Center for Health and Counseling, 474-7043, TTY 474-7045.

Grading:

Research presentation (40%), Quality of questions asked of other presenters (25%), Defense of research presentation (25%), Participation (10%). The grading scale will be A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%. We will not be using +/- grading in this course.

Schedule:

Week	Activity	Presenter	Date
0	Introduction and planning of student schedules	Simpson	22 Jan
1	Travel this week – continue next week	Simpson	-----
2	Presentation skills and their importance	Simpson	2 Feb
3	Student Introductions (10+5 min each)	ALL	9 Feb
4	Example questioning / oral defense	Simpson	16 Feb
5	Research presentation 1	Ashley Jones	23 Feb
6	Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 1	Ashley Jones	5 Mar (Thur)
7	Spring break – no classes		
8	Research presentation 2	Taryn Lopez	16 Mar
9	Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 2	Taryn Lopez	23 Mar
10	Research presentation 3	Micheal Jaramillo	30 Mar
11	Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 3	Micheal Jaramillo	6 Apr
12	Research presentation 4	Heather Slater	13 Apr
13	Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 4	Heather Slater	20 Apr
14	Discussion on lessons learned and course improvement	Simpson	27 Apr

Important dates:

Last day for 100% refund of tuition and fees Friday, 30 Jan
Last day for student-initiated and faculty-initiated drops Friday, 6 Feb
Last day for 50% refund of tuition (tuition only, no fees refunded) Friday, 6 Feb
Spring break (no classes)..... Mon.-Fri. Mar. 9-13
Last day for withdrawals (W appears on academic record) Friday, 27 Mar
Last day of instruction (UAF wide) Monday, 4 May
Final Examination time 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Thursday, 7 May

Calendar Chem 691s09

Wk	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
0		19 Jan MLK Birthday	20	21	22 First day of Classes	23	24
1	25	26	27	28	29	30 Last day for 100% refund	31
2	01-Feb	2	3	4	5	6 Last day to Drop (nothing on transcript) 50% tuition refund	7
3	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
4	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
5	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
6	01-Mar	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9 Spring Break	10 -----	11 -----	12 -----	13 End Spring Break	14

8	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9	22	23	24	25	26	27 Last day to withdraw (W on transcript)	28
10	29	30	31	01-Apr	2	3	4
11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
14	26	27	28	29	30	01-May	2
15	3	4 Last day of Instruction	5	6	7 Final exam 1-3 PM	8	9