Research Presentation Techniques
Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. William Simpson (NSF 186, IARC 335, 474-7235, 474-2436
wrsimpson@alaska.edu)
Office Hours: Th, 2:00–3:00, F 1:00–2:30, REIC 186
Meeting time: 9:15 – 10:15 AM Friday, REIC 138

Course Description (from catalog)
Review of recent research in chemistry to expose students to recent findings, methodologies and
customs 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.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, you will have the skills to present and defend a thesis successfully.

Course Structure:
The course will meet weekly. 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 / formulate questions of the other students / speakers in their presentations.

Early in the class, students will give a brief introduction to their research area that will give a
chance for initial feedback and a chance for the class to learn about each other’s work.

Students with disabilities
Disability Services provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified
as being eligible for these services. If you believe you are eligible, please visit
http://www.uaf.edu/disability/ on the web, via email: uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu, by
phone at (907) 474-5655, or by TTY at (907) 474-1827. They will work with you to determine
appropriate accommodations. To assure that these accommodations can be applied fairly, please
complete this process and discuss it with me in the first two weeks of class.

Grading:
Short introduction of topic (10%), Research presentation (40%), Quality of questions asked of
other presenters / written questions of seminar speakers (20%), Defense of research presentation
(20%), 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>4 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation skills and their importance</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>11 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student Introductions of Topics</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>18 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Example Presentation / Example Oral Defense</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>25 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>2 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>9 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>16 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>23 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>30 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>6 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>13 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation</td>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>20 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Thanksgivings Holiday</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>27 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 5</td>
<td>4 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation</td>
<td>Student 5</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wrap up / Ideas for improvement</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>18 Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important dates:

- 18 Sep 2015 (Fr) Last day to drop class (without W on transcript), tuition refund
- 26-27 Nov 2015 (Th – Fr) Thanksgivings Break
- 30 Oct 2015 (Fr) Last day to withdraw from class (with W on transcript)
- 14 Dec 2015 (Mo) End of Instruction (overall UAF)