

Research Presentation Techniques

Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Fall 2015

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| 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 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.

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:

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

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)