

CHEM-481: Chemistry Seminar Course Syllabus

Course: Chemistry Seminar (CHEM-481); 1 credit
Communication Intensive (see Course Description below)

Prerequisites: COMM-131 or COMM-141

Location: Reichardt 201

Meeting Time: T, R 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Blackboard link: <http://classes.uaf.edu>

All information and supporting documents for this course will be maintained on the UAF Blackboard website. It is therefore important that you check the site regularly for updates. Time-sensitive information and reminders will occasionally be sent to all students enrolled in the course, so it is important that you **verify that your email address is correct**.

Instructor: Dr. Brian Edmonds

Office hours: MWF 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (or by appointment)

Office: Murie Building
Room 113

Research Lab: Murie Building, Room 110

Phone: 907-474-6527

E-mail: bwedmonds@alaska.edu

Preferred contact method: e-mail

Recommended Reference Text

Title:	<i>The Craft of Scientific Presentations</i>
Author:	Alley, Michael
Publisher:	Springer-Verlag, New York
ISBN:	0387955550
Publication Date:	2008

Course Description:

This is the first of a two-semester sequence in oral communication required for the B.S. degree in Chemistry. Together, these two courses provide an introduction to the techniques and style of technical oral presentation accepted by professional chemists. Class will meet two hours per week, the first hour in open session and the second in closed session. Chem-481 students are required to attend all of the public seminars (T) and participate in critiques and presentations during the Thursday session.

Note: The oral communication intensive credit is earned upon successful completion of **both** Chem-481 and Chem-482.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course (and Chem-482) will have an understanding of the principles of oral communication in science including accepted presentation techniques, listening skills, critical analysis of scientific presentations, participation in scientific discussions, and introduction of speakers.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an ability to listen to a scientific presentation and formulate pertinent questions regarding the material presented.
2. Actively participate in discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of a speaker's presentation and the scientific merit of the research presented.
3. Provide clearly written critiques of scientific presentations with respect to presentation style and content.
4. Demonstrate the ability to introduce a speaker and give a short presentation.

Instructional Methods:

Students are expected to attend the Tuesday seminars and to ask relevant/thoughtful questions during the question and answer period that follows the presentation. In addition, written critiques of all presentations are required, and students should participate in discussions of these critiques in class on Thursday.

To gain some public speaking experience, students will write and deliver two practice presentations (~10 min).

Course Policies:**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate. Attendance will be tracked throughout the course.

Exams:

There are no traditional examinations in this course. Grades will be based on attendance, written critiques, presentations, and participation.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's intellectual property without correct citation of the author. Intellectual property includes electronic, spoken, and print media. Students are expected to cite all sources used in oral and written presentations. Citations should be referenced according to the Columbia Guide to Style (see: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html for more information). Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with severely. The minimum penalty is a grade of 0 for the assignment in question, and cases may be referred to the Department Chair and/or Dean for further action.

Grading:

It is expected that students will complete all of the Learning Objectives listed above.

Grading is Pass/Fail. Students who meet or exceed all of the following requirements will earn a passing grade:

1. Passing grade on 75% of all required written critiques.
2. Attendance at all class sessions unless excused by the instructor.
3. Satisfactory performance on practice presentations.
4. Satisfactory performance in Thursday discussions. An oral summary of the written feedback/critique should be given, if requested.

Support Services:

Support can be obtained through the University of Alaska Library system, online resources, and the instructor. Additional services are available through Student Support Services (<http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/>) at UAF.

Speaking Lab: Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the Speaking Lab located in the Department of Communication Speaking Center (Gruening, Room 507). The Speaking Center is a

student-oriented service provided to facilitate the preparation of public presentations. Students can obtain expert assistance in all aspects of public speaking, including assistance with organization, refinement, and delivery of their presentation. It is possible to record and watch a practice presentation together with a Speaking Center coach, who can offer constructive feedback. The Speaking Center is open to all students enrolled in an oral intensive course.

<http://www.uaf.edu/comm/>

Speaking Center Hours of Operation

See www.uaf.edu/speak for current information.

Disabilities Services:

We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (<http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>; 203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability and require special assistance, please contact the instructor within the first week of the course so that arrangements can be made without delay.