

Research Presentation Techniques Spring 2020

Course Id: CHEM 691 (1 cr.)
Lecture: Tentative: Thursday 4:00pm, REIC 165
Instructor: Tom Trainor
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474-5628
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Office Hours: By appointment (email)

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 should have the skills to successfully present and defend a thesis.

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.

Course Structure :

The course will meet weekly for a 60-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.

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.