

**Chemistry 482/692: Chemistry Seminar (2.0 Credits)  
Fall Semester 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Kriya L. Dunlap  
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Class Time: TR 4:00 – 5:00, REIC 174  
Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 MWF, WRRB 230 or by appointment

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**Prerequisites:** Comm 131 or Comm 141, Chem 481

**Required Text book:** Available electronically from UAF Library.  
The Craft of Scientific Presentations, 2nd Edition  
Michael Alley  
Springer -Verlag, New York  
Publication Date: 2013

**Course Description:**

This is the second in 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 generally accepted by professional chemists. Class will meet two hours per week, the first hour is open session, and the second is closed session. Chem 482 students are required to give one 40 minute oral presentation during the semester on a date scheduled by the instructor, attend all of the public seminars (Tuesdays, sometimes Thursdays) and participate in critiquing presentations by graduate students, chemistry faculty, and their peers during the Thursday session.

**Note:** The oral communication intensive credit is earned upon successful completion of both CHEM F481 and Chem482.

**Faculty Mentors:** In general all Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty can serve as mentors.

**Course Goals:**

Develop an overall 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 and invited guests.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate an ability to listen to a scientific presentation and to ask pertinent questions regarding the material presented.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research presented in a peer-reviewed article and to answer questions posed by the audience on this research at the end of the presentation.
3. Actively participate in a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of a speaker's presentation and/or the scientific merit of the research presented.
4. Provide clear concise written critiques of research and/or journal presentations with respect to presentation style, multimedia and content.
5. Demonstrate the ability to introduce a seminar speaker in a professional and appropriate manner as described by the course directors.

### **Instructional Methods:**

Chem 482 students are required to attend all class sessions and participation in all class activities. Students will be expected to listen to all presentations during the Tuesday public seminar session and to ask relevant and probing questions during the question/answer period. In addition detailed, written critiques of all presentations will be required and all Chem 482 students will be expected to attend and participate in the discussion of these critiques during the Thursday closed session.

Since a large portion of Chem 482 is the interpretation, analysis and presentation of a scientific study, the course will utilize a mentorship approach. Mentors are faculty members either within the Chemistry and Biochemistry department, faculty affiliated with the departmental graduate program or unaffiliated faculty or local professionals engaged in chemistry relevant research. Unaffiliated mentors must be approved in advance by the course instructor.

A second major component of Chem 482 is participation in a critical discussion of your presentation. This may involve additional questions regarding the content of the seminar in addition to constructive criticism of your presentation itself. While it can be difficult to accept criticism, it is an essential part of scientific communication and you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner during these discussions.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Attendance:**

Due to the dependence on participation, students are expected to attend all class sessions.

#### **Exams:**

There will be no examinations in this course. Grading will be based on attendance, quality of participation and quality of written critiques.

#### **Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's intellectual property without correct

citation of the author. Intellectual property includes all electronic, spoken or printmedia. Students are expected to cite all sources used in oral and written presentations. Citations should be cited according to the Columbia Guide to Style (see: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx\\_basic.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html) for more information). Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with severely with the minimum penalty being a grade of 0 for the assignment in question. Cases may be referred to the Department Chair or Dean for further action.

### **Conduct:**

Your conduct in this course is expected to be professional and respectful at all times. Disruptive or abusive students will be removed from the classroom and may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Grading and Evaluation of Performance:**

It is expected that students will complete all of the Learning Objectives listed above. Grading in this course is A-F. Grades will be assigned based on successful completion of course requirements as described below. Each course requirement will be assigned a point value and you will receive all or a portion of these points depending upon the quality of your work. Oral presentation will be graded according to the rubric distributed in class. A minimum passing grade will be given to students who have completed the following requirements:

### **Required Activities and Scoring:**

Mentor selection and topic form completed on time	5
PowerPoint (or equivalent) presentation completed on time	5
“Ready to Present” form signed by mentor and returned on time	5
Seminar grade	55
Attendance and critiques	30
Total Points	100

### **Letter Grades:**

**A: 9 – 100 points**

**B: 80 – 89 points**

**C: 70 -79 points**

**D: 60 – 69 points**

**F: <60 points**

### **Speaking Center at UAF:**

In preparing your oral presentations for this class, consider using the UAF Speaking Center for coaching and practice. The Center is located in 507 Gruening Building. Call 474- 5470 for Speaking Center hours and to schedule an appointment. Walk- ins are welcome, but an appointment is best.

**Disabilities Services:**

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials.

Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me during the first two weeks of class. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (\*208 WHIT, 474- 5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services.

**Veteran Support Services:**

Walter Cray is the Veterans Service Officer at the Veterans Resource Center, 111 Eielson Building. 474- 2475. ([wecray@alaska.edu](mailto:wecray@alaska.edu)) Fairbanks Vet Center 456- 4238. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Ft. Wainwright is 361- 6370.

**Amending this Syllabus:**

Amendments and changes to the syllabus, including evaluation and grading mechanisms, are possible. The instructor must initiate any changes. Changes to the grading and evaluation scheme can be made before the add/drop date without a vote, but after that date must be voted on by the entire class and approved only with unanimous vote of all students present in class on the day the issue is decided. The lecture schedule and reading assignments (Daily Schedule) will not require a vote and may be altered at the instructor's discretion. This Daily Schedule can be found on Blackboard. Grading changes that unilaterally and equitably improve all students' grades will not require a vote. Once approved, amendments will be distributed in writing to all students via Blackboard.