Research Presentation Techniques

Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Spring 2020

Instructor
Dr. William Simpson (REIC 186, Akasofu 335, 474-7235, 474-2436
wrsimpson@alaska.edu)

Office hours
Mon 10:00AM—11:00AM, Th 2:00PM-4:00PM, and by appointment

Meeting time
4:00 - 5:00PM Thursday, REIC 165

Text
Handouts in class

Credits
1

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:
In this semester, you will prepare for an oral presentation defense. At the end of the course,
successful students will be able to:

- Make an effective presentation on their research.
- Learn how to reply to questions from examiners.
- Learn to ask constructive questions at presentations.

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 / formulate questions of the other students / speakers in their presentations.
In cases where there are relevant talks on campus, we may choose to have students attend
those seminars. To document participation, students will write 2-3 questions that they would
ask the speaker and hand that in to Professor Simpson.

Nondiscrimination policy: Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am
happy to work with you, disability services, veterans’ services, rural student services, etc. to find
reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual
harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if
I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the
appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources
available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/
Disability Services: 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 through the UAF Office of Disability Services. For more information, contact Disability Services at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu, 474-5655 or by TTY at 474-1827 or http://www.uaf.edu/disability.

Syllabus Revision: Before the drop date, we will set the schedule of presentations by students, which will fill in the table below. A revised copy of the syllabus will be distributed to all students and posted to Blackboard. Adjustments to the tentative lecture pacing and/or laboratory order below can be made by the instructor to best optimize use of class / lab time and will be communicated to students via Blackboard and email.

Grading:
Research presentation (40%), Quality of questions asked of other presenters / written questions of seminar speakers (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.

Important dates:
Alaska Civil Rights Day (MLK birthday, holiday) ............................................. Monday, 20 Jan
Last day for drops (course does not appear) and 100% tuition+fee refund ............... Friday, 24 Jan
Spring Break (holiday) ................................................................. Monday - Friday, 9-13 Mar
Last day for withdrawals (W appears on academic record) ......................... Friday, 28 Mar
Final Exam (1:00-3:00PM) .................................................................................. Friday, 1 May

Summary of Resources:
Faculty—Bill Simpson, NSF 186, 474-7235, wrsimpson@alaska.edu
Blackboard: Log into the blackboard system: https://classes.alaska.edu/

Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction / scheduling</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>16 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation skills and their importance</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>23 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Developing proposals</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>30 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Writing proposals</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>6 Feb</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Example research presentation</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>13 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Example questioning / Oral defense of research</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>20 Feb</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>27 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>5 Mar</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>12 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>19 Mar</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>26 Mar</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>2 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>9 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Revisiting proposal concepts</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>16 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Proposal review and evaluation</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lessons learned discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>May 1 at 1 PM</td>
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