

Chemistry 481: Chemistry Seminar

Instructor: Dr. DUFFY
Office: WRRB 246
Telephone: 474-7525 (office) Cell: 907-978-9695
Email: kduffy@alaska.edu
Class Time: TR 4:00 - 5:00, REIC
Office Hours: TR 5:00 - 6:00 PM, or by appointment

Prerequisites: Comm 131 or Comm 141

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 first 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 481 students are required to 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.

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 481 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 481 students will be expected to attend and participate in the discussion of these critiques during the Thursday closed session.

To provide some public speaking experience in Chem 481, students will be required to write and deliver a public introduction for seminar speakers at least once during the semester and to participate in any public speaking exercises conducted during the semester.

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 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 on a Pass/Fail basis. A minimum passing grade will be given to students who have completed the following requirements:

1. Passing grade on written critiques. (Defined as a passing grade for 75% of all required critiques).
2. Satisfactory attendance at all class sessions. (Attendance of all class sessions unless excused by the instructor and relevant discussion during the question/answer period).
3. Satisfactory performance on seminar introduction. (A well researched and delivered introduction).
4. Satisfactory performance in Thursday discussions. (A well delivered summary of the written critique when requested along with well thought out responses to questions.)

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 Crary is the Veterans Service Officer at the Veterans Resource Center, 111 Eielson Building. 474-2475. (wecrary@alaska.edu) Fairbanks Vet Center 456-4238. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Ft. Wainwright is 361-6370.