CH 570: Literature and Communication in Graduate Chemistry

Fall 2013
3 Credit Hours
Primary Instructor: Dr. Vincent F. Scalfani
Co-Instructor: Dr. Patrick A. Frantom
Syllabus subject to change

Prerequisites
None

Course Description
This course is an introduction to researching chemistry literature. Topics covered will primarily be related to scientific critical analysis and effective scientific communication, both written and oral. Students will receive structured guidance from the class instructor(s), chemistry faculty, and their class peers throughout the semester to assist with writing a chemistry research paper and delivering an oral presentation. Successful completion of this course will fulfill the literature seminar requirements (written research paper and seminar) for chemistry graduate students.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of course, students will be able to:

i. Describe aspects of responsible conduct in research
ii. Collect scientific literature
iii. Analyze scientific literature
iv. Apply constructive peer review
v. Prepare and present (written and oral) a critical analysis of a research topic

Outline of Topics
i. Ethics, plagiarism and trust in science
ii. Chemistry information resources
iii. Literature searching techniques
iv. Critical analysis of literature
v. Peer review
vi. Scientific writing
vii. Presentations
Exams and Assignments

Research paper and seminar – Students will write a 10 page literature research paper and present a 20 minute in-class research seminar on an approved chemistry research topic. Research topics will be approved by the instructors(s) and the students’ research advisor. The research seminar will be public, that is, open to all faculty and students who wish to attend.

Participation – Students will complete sections of their research report and seminar slides throughout the semester. Moreover, students should actively participate in class discussions and peer review.

Grading Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Research paper and seminar – The research paper and seminar will be evaluated by the instructor(s) and chemistry faculty.

Participation – Student participation will be evaluated by the primary instructor.

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

Assignments are due on the scheduled date. Extensions and special arrangements may be granted at the discretion of the primary and co-instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. It is strongly recommended that students attend class regularly as participation is a significant part of the course.

Required Texts


Other Course Materials

A large amount of the reading material in this course will be from the primary literature and distributed electronically and/or via print. Material not directly distributed can be acquired from the UA Libraries system.

Extra Credit Opportunities

None

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar, sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.
When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students (sign up at myBama)
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisories are broadcast via WUOA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit wvuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.