

## Chemistry 380 – Seminar

Fall 2011, 4:00 pm Thursdays in LS-142

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In this course you will learn to obtain, process, and evaluate research-related information. Each week there will be a seminar or a TA presentation for a total of 10 seminars and 3 presentations. The topics of the talks will cover the entire range of chemistry and will be given largely by outside speakers. You must attend each seminar and use what you learned from the speaker and what you searched on the web to write a seminar report.

Your report is limited to *one* single-spaced page and **must** contain the following parts:

A: Speaker's name and affiliation.

B: Explanation of the importance and originality of the research presented in the seminar. (a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences)

C: Evaluation of the quality of the presentation. What features of the presentation or speaker you did or did not like? Did you find the seminar interesting and easy to follow? (a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences)

D: Evaluation of the quality of the research generated in speaker's lab. This evaluation should contain the following data: 1) Funding sources for the presented research (These are usually mentioned by the speaker at the very end or very beginning of his seminar); 2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e., 2006-2010); 3) The full reference of the article published in a journal with the highest impact factor, including its numerical value; and 4) The speaker's Hirsch index (h-index).

Your reports must be hand delivered to the TA at the beginning of the next seminar or TA presentation. A report will be considered acceptable and eligible for one credit point if it contains all required parts and these items are correct. Reports that are incomplete and/or contain incorrect information will be awarded 0.5 points. Missed reports, if not made up, carry zero credit; check below for situations when missed reports are accepted. During TA presentations, your TA will cover topics of professional interest, e.g., how to write a good resume. He will also invite guests, for example, an employment counselor. As for seminars, you are required to submit a *one-page* summary of each TA presentation at the beginning of the next seminar. The last report based on the Dec 8 seminar must be submitted electronically or as a hard copy to the TA by 5 pm on Dec 15; no exceptions will be made.

You need to work on your reports and summaries individually. Identical or very similar reports submitted by two or more students will be scored as a missed assignment and will be reported to the Dean's office as a violation of Academic Integrity. If you submit 14 acceptable reports you will receive an A, 13 will get you an A-, 12 will be a B+, 11 will provide a B, 10 will be a B-, 9 will be a C+, 8 will be a C, 7 will be C-, 6 will be D+, 5 will be D, and less than that will be an F.

Any illness, accident, etc. that results in a missed assignment must be communicated within two calendar days to the instructor and TA by e-mail; supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's note, obituary) must be provided to the instructor. Under these exceptional circumstances, you can make-up a missed seminar by submitting a report that contains parts A and D.