

Chemistry 380 – Seminar

Fall 2014, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Thursdays in FH-133 (Auditorium)

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Objective: In this course you will learn to obtain, process, and evaluate research-related information. Each week there will be a seminar or a presentation by Loyola professionals (13 total). 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.

Reports: 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 using a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences.

C: Evaluation of the quality of the presentation, indicating the features of the presentation or speaker you did or did not like. Also indicate whether or not you found the seminar interesting and easy to follow. Limit your response to a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences.

D: An evaluation of the quality of the speaker's research. The evaluation should contain the following data (most, if not all, of this information can be found in the Web of Science and your TA will demonstrate how to search for it during the first week of classes):

1) Funding sources for the presented research (These are usually mentioned by the speaker at the very end or very beginning of the seminar);

2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e., 2009-2013);

3) The full reference of the article published in a journal with the highest 2011 impact factor, including the numerical value of the impact factor for the journal; and

4) The speaker's Hirsch index (h-index).

Out of the 13 seminars, there will be 4 special presentations by professionals from the Library, the Pre-Health Program and the Career Development Center. These seminars are designed to provide useful information about career opportunities, research and job searching techniques, and other issues important for individuals beginning their professional careers. For each of these special seminars, a brief one-page report must be submitted that contains the following information:

1) The main issues presented; and

2) An indication of how these issues could be useful for you in the future, and if not, why?

The deadline to submit the report is immediately prior to the beginning of the next seminar. 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 under “grading” and “missed assignments” for situations when missed reports are accepted. The last report based on the December 4th seminar must be submitted electronically or as a hard copy to the TA by 5 pm on December 11th; no exceptions will be made.

Class Conduct: *Laptops/tablet/cell phones, etc. are allowed during the seminar to take notes; however, anyone using electronic devices to browse the web (Facebook ESPN, etc.) will receive a zero on their report.* You must 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 as a violation of Academic Integrity. Students are required to attend all seminars, pay attention to the speaker, and remain until the seminar has ended. It is not acceptable to turn in your report and leave by another door before the seminar has begun or ended. Nor is it acceptable to turn in another student's report along with your own. The required seminar attendance will be verified by your personal signature on an attendance sheet at the time submission of your own report to the TA before the seminar begins as well as at the end of the seminar.

Grading: A grade of A will be assigned for 13 acceptable reports, 12 acceptable reports will be given an A-, 11 will be given B+, 10 will be given a B, 9 will be given a B-, 8 will be given a C+, 7 will be given a C, 6 will be given C-, 5 will be given D+, 4 will be given D, and less than 4 acceptable reports will be given an F. On September 18th at 6:00 pm, there is a special seminar by an eminent speaker from Caltech on an interesting topic “Synthetic Models of Biological and Heterogeneous Active Sites for Oxygen Evolution and Reduction.” Although attendance of this seminar is not required, I encourage you to attend. You write a report for the special seminar in lieu of a report for a regular seminar.

Missed Assignments: Any illness, accident, or family crisis 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 to verify the event. *Only under these exceptional circumstances* can a missed seminar be made up by submitting a report that contains parts A and D.