

Chemistry 380: Seminar
Department of Chemistry, Loyola University Chicago
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Dan Killelea, dkillelea@luc.edu
Teaching Assistant: Matthew Najor (FH-022), mnajor@luc.edu
Seminars: 4:00pm, Thursdays in LSB-142

Course Description

Each week there will be a seminar or a TA presentation for a total of 11 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 her/his seminar); 2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e., 2007-2011); 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. Any report submitted after the beginning of the seminar will be considered late and will be automatically deducted 0.5 points. You must sign in with the TA before the start of each seminar. You will be considered absent if you fail to sign in and will result in a zero for the report on that 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 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 26 April seminar must be submitted electronically or as a hard copy to the TA by 5 pm on 1 May; no exceptions will be made.

Evaluation

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's office as a violation of Academic Integrity.

Furthermore, use of computers during the seminar is not permitted and instead notes must be taken on paper, to better focus on the presentation. Also, students enrolled in the class must sit in the first 7 rows

of the classroom closest to the podium.

Seminars are meant for a speaker to convey the science of their research to the audience. The most important part of a presentation are the questions from the audience, and the questions reflect favorably on the clarity and importance of the presentation. Do not shy away from questions, please ask the speaker. To encourage questions, in order to receive an A or A- for the course, you must ask at least one seminar speaker a well-thought out question during the Q/A portion of the presentation over the course of the semester. The maximum grade is a B+ if no questions are asked.

Grades:

Your grade is based on the number of *acceptable* reports submitted on time. Asking a speaker a question allows your grade to go above a B+.

# Reports	Grade	Note
14	A	And ask question
13	A-	And ask question
12	B+	Max grade without question
11	B	
10	B-	
9	C	
8	D	
<8	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, at the discretion of the instructor and TA, you may make-up a missed seminar by submitting a report that contains parts A and D.

Schedule

All seminars at 4:00pm, Thursdays in LSB-142

Class #	Date	Speaker
1	19 Jan	Faculty Candidate
2	26 Jan	Catherine Carrigan, <i>Loyola Career Center</i>
3	2 Feb	Faculty Candidate
4	9 Feb	Faculty Candidate
5	16 Feb	Prof. Kathy Nagy, <i>University of Illinois – Chicago</i>
6	23 Feb	Prof. W. Cary Huffman, <i>Loyola University Chicago</i>
7	1 Mar	Prof. Wayne Goodman, <i>Texas A&M</i>
	8 Mar	<i>Spring Break, no class</i>
8	15 Mar	Prof. Harold Scheraga, <i>Cornell University</i>
9	22 Mar	Prof. Paul Chiarelli, <i>Loyola University Chicago</i>
10	29 Mar	Prof. Chita Das, <i>Purdue University</i>
11	5 Apr	Catherine Carrigan, <i>Loyola Career Center</i>
12	12 Apr	Prof. Cathy Middlecamp, <i>University of Wisconsin – Madison</i>
13	19 Apr	Dr. Nicholas Camillone, <i>Brookhaven Nat'l Lab</i>
14	26 Apr	Prof. Michael Trenary, <i>University of Illinois – Chicago</i>