

Chemistry 380 – Seminar

Fall 2015, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Thursdays in LSB-142 (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 (12 total). The topics of the talks will cover the entire range of chemistry and will be given largely by outside speakers. Attendance of seminars and presentations are mandatory and each contributes 10 points to the overall grade. You will use what you learned from the speaker and what you searched on the web to write a report.

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

A: Speaker's name and affiliation (0.5 points each; 1 point total).

B: Explanation of the importance and originality of the research presented in the seminar using a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences (2.5 points).

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 (2.5 points).

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 (4 points total):

1) Funding sources for the presented research (These are usually mentioned by the speaker at the very end or very beginning of the seminar) (0.5 points);

2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e., 2010-2014) (1 point);

3) The full reference of a published article, including the numerical value of the impact factor for the journal (1 point); and

4) The speaker's Hirsch index (h-index) (1.5 points).

Out of the 12 presentations, there will be 4 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 (5 points); and

2) An indication of how these issues could be useful for you in the future, and if not, why? (5 points)

The deadline to submit the report is immediately prior to the beginning of the next seminar. Attendance of a seminar carries a 10-point credit. A report will be considered acceptable and eligible for a 10-point credit if it contains all required parts and these items are correct. Reports that are incomplete and/or contain incorrect information will be awarded partial credit as listed above. 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 November 19th seminar must be submitted to the TA as a hard copy during the class evaluation period on December 3rd or electronically by 5 pm on the same date; no exceptions will be made. If all students participate on the online evaluation, one point will be awarded to each student.

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. Note that out of a total 12 seminars, only the top scores of 11 reports, including attendance, will count toward assignment of letter grades. You may use a missed seminar as the lowest scored assignment. The Denkwalter Lecture will take place on September 24th at 6:00 pm, at the Damen Student Center, Multipurpose Room South. This year’s speaker is Professor Sara Skrabalak, an eminent researcher from Indiana University, who will be talking on “Seeding a New Kind of Garden: Synthesis of Symmetrically Stalled Nanocrystals.” Although attendance of this seminar is not required, I encourage you to be there. You may write a report for the special seminar in lieu of a report for a regular seminar.

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on the attendance (10 points per seminar) and the scores for the 11 best reports. A total score of 210 points or more will assigned a grade of A, and 205 to 209 points an A-, B⁺ from 200 to 204, B from 195 to 199, B- from 190 to 194, C+ 185 to 189, C will be given for scores in the 180 to 184 range, C- from 175 to 179, D+ from 170 to 174, and D will be given from 165 to 169, and less than 164 points will be given an F.

Class Conduct: *Laptops, tablets, etc. are allowed during the seminar to take notes; however, anyone spotted browsing the web (Facebook ESPN, etc.) will receive a zero on their report.* You must work on your reports 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 of submission of your own report to the TA before the seminar begins as well as by your own signature at the end of the seminar.