

Chemistry 380 – Seminar

Fall 2017, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Thursdays in Flanner 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 (12 total). The topics of the talks will cover the entire range of chemistry, and the talks 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. Each report is worth 10 points, and the lowest report score will be dropped.

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on attendance (10 points per seminar) and the scores for the 11 best reports. A total score of 205 points or more will be assigned a grade of A, and 200 to 204 points an A-, B⁺ from 195 to 199, B from 190 to 194, B- from 185 to 189, C⁺ 180 to 184, C for scores in the 175 to 179 range, C- from 170 to 174, D⁺ from 165 to 169, and D from 160 to 164, and less than 160 points will be given an F.

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., 2012-2016) (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 2 by professionals from the Career Development, the Graduate School and/or the Pre-Health Program. These seminars are designed to provide useful information on job opportunities and admissions to Graduate School programs and/or Medical Schools. 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 under "grading" and "missed assignments" for situations when missed reports are accepted. The last report based on the December 7th seminar must be submitted to the TA as a hard copy during the class evaluation period on December 14th or electronically by 5 pm on the same date; no exceptions will be made. If all students participate on the online evaluation, five points 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 in Flanner 133 Auditorium on November 9th at 6:00 pm, which will be preceded by a poster session in the Foyer at 5 pm. This year's speaker is Professor Elizabeth Nolan, an eminent researcher from UCLA, who will be talking on "Chemical explorations of human innate immunity and microbial pathogenesis." 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.

Course Repeat Rule: Effective with the Fall 2017 semester, students are allowed only THREE attempts to pass Chemistry courses with a C- or better grade. The three attempts include withdrawals (W). After the second attempt, the student must secure approval for a third attempt. Students must come to the Chemistry Department, fill out a permission to register form or print it from the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry website: <http://www.luc.edu/chemistry/forms/> and obtain a signature from the Undergraduate Program Director, Assistant Chairperson, or Chairperson in Chemistry. A copy of this form is then taken to your Academic Advisor in Sullivan to secure final permission for the attempt.

Class Conduct: *Laptops, tablets, etc. are allowed during the seminar to take notes; however, anyone caught 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. <http://www.luc.edu/cas/advising/academicintegritystatement/> 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.

Course/Instructor Evaluation (IDEA): Loyola has switched to IDEA for instructor and course evaluations. In the last three weeks of classes, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate both the instructor and the course by using an online survey. The essential IDEA objective for this course is to learn how to evaluate research-related information. The important IDEA objective is to learn how to determine h-indexes and impact factors.

Students with Disabilities: By the end of the first week of classes, students who need special testing accommodations should give the instructor documentation that has been approved by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD).

Error Policy: The instructor reserves the right to amend or correct this syllabus.