

Chemistry 380

Fall 2024

Course: Chemistry 380
Date: Thursday
Time: 11:30 A-12:45 P
Location: FH133
Textbook: None
Website: Sakai

Instructor: Prof. Miguel Ballicora
Flanner Hall 125
mballic@luc.edu
TA: Richa Khatiwada
Flanner Hall 314A
rkhatiwada@luc.edu

Course Title: Chemistry Seminar

Course Philosophy: Chemistry 380 is designed to provide an overview of modern chemistry and biochemistry via a sampling of speakers from outside institutions, or senior PhD students near their defense.

Learning Outcomes

1. *Critical Analysis of Scientific Presentations*

- Students will develop the ability to critically analyze and evaluate the content, methods, and conclusions presented by invited speakers, identifying strengths and potential weaknesses in the arguments.

2. *Engagement with Current Research Trends*

- Students will gain exposure to cutting-edge research and emerging trends in the field of Chemistry and Biochemistry, understanding the current challenges and advancements shaping the discipline.

3. *Professional Networking and Interaction*

- Students will develop a professional interaction with guest speakers by formulating and asking insightful questions.

Office Hours: Based on appointments

Grading Outline: Your grade is primarily based on the number of *quality* post-seminar discussions you contribute. Asking the *speaker* a question allows your grade to go above a B+.

# Discussions missed	Grade	Note
0-1	A	And ask question
2	A-	And ask question
3	B+	Max grade without question
4	B	
5	B-	
6	C	
7	D	
>7	F	

Note that there are at least 12 seminars, so you will be allowed to miss one without any explanation required to cover any illness, accident, etc. For any other missed seminar, this 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 one missed seminar by submitting a report.

Grading Details (Discussions):

It is important that you understand the major portions of the talk, but often there may be areas of which you are unfamiliar. The best way to improve your understanding is to discuss amongst your peers and the TA/Instructor. Immediately after the seminar, we will continue to meet and discuss the talk for the remaining 15 minutes of class. You are graded on whether you have contributed in a meaningful way to

this discussion. Usually this is a good question about the seminar or answering a classmate's question. The TA/instructor will ask you for input if you have not contributed near the end of the time. Missed discussions count as zero, and unless one of the earlier situations has occurred, a one-page report on the speaker's research must be submitted.

Additional Grade Contributions (Seminar Etiquette):

It is discourteous to arrive late for seminar, and to encourage on time arrival, students must sign in with the TA before the start of each seminar. If you fail to sign in, or arrive after the start of the class period, it will result in a 0.5 for that seminar. You are also expected to stay for the whole seminar; leaving at any point will result in a similar penalty.

Additional Grade Contributions (Speaker Questions):

Seminars are meant for a speaker to convey the science of their research to the audience. The most important part of a presentation is 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, 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.

Schedule (will be updated in Sakai)

		Speaker	University
29-Aug		Introduction	
5-Sep	1	Pengfei Li	Loyola University Chicago
12-Sep	2	Grad Student TBA	Loyola University Chicago
19-Sep	3	Same Gozem	Georgia State University
26-Sep	4	Anirudha Sumant	Argonne National Laboratory
3-Oct	5	Christopher Gisriel	UW-Madison
10-Oct	6	Grad Student TBA	Loyola University Chicago
17-Oct	7	C. Amanchukwu	U. of Chicago
24-Oct	8	Grad Student TBA	Loyola University Chicago
31-Oct	9	Tom Driver	UIC
7-Nov	10	Linda Columbus	University of Virginia
14-Nov	11	Grad Student TBA	Loyola University Chicago
21-Nov	12	TBA	TBA
28-Nov		Thanksgiving	N/A
5-Dec	13	TBA	TBA

Report Format (in case of exceptional circumstances):

Your report should be one single-spaced page and **must** contain the parts listed below. It must be your own words and may not quote from any sources.

A: Speaker's name and affiliation.

B: A summary of the findings within at least two journal articles written by the speaker. Your report should cite these papers where you refer to the information from the article. Bibliographic information does not count towards the page limit.

C: Evaluation of the quality of the research generated in speaker's lab. This evaluation should contain the following data:

- 1) Funding sources for the research (these are usually mentioned at the end of their journal articles);
- 2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e., 2013-2018), as found via web of science.
- 3) The speaker's Hirsch index (h-index), as found via web of science.

Please include a screenshot of 1), 2), and 3) on the back page of your report.

For speakers with overly common names, the institution should be included in your search.

Reports are due at the seminar directly after the absence.

Equity Compliance

[Syllabus Language: Office for Equity and Compliance: Loyola University Chicago \(luc.edu\)](#)

Copyright

that materials from the course cannot be shared outside the course without the instructor's *written permission*

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Please open and read the foldout for the third item, "Academic Integrity" in the [Undergraduate Academic Standards and Regulations](#). Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, submitting false documents, and deliberately disrupting the performance of other class members. Standards apply to both individual and group assignments.

Regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence: our Provost has expressed to "Let us all make sure we are learning and sharing best practices and not allowing AI to do the learning for us." In this course, any work you submit for credit must represent your own ideas and understanding of the assigned material. If you are uncertain about any case where your use of AI may be in conflict with University or course standards, please see me to discuss your concerns

An instance of academic misconduct (including those detailed on the website provided above or in this syllabus) will be reported to the Department Chair and the academic Dean's office. At minimum, it will be penalized by failing an assignment, and depending on the severity of the misconduct could even be failure of the course.

Information about Accessibility Support

Student Support: Requests for Accommodation

Loyola University Chicago provides reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodation related to a disability or other condition is required to register with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC). Professors will receive an accommodation notification from SAC, preferably within the first two weeks of class.

Students are encouraged to meet with their professor individually in order to discuss their accommodations. All information will remain confidential.

Please note that in this class, software may be used to audio record class lectures in order to provide equal access to students with disabilities. Students approved for this accommodation use recordings for their personal study only and recordings may not be shared with other people or used in any way against the faculty member, other lecturers, or students whose classroom comments are recorded as part of the class activity. Recordings are deleted at the end of the semester.

For more information about registering with SAC or questions about accommodations, please contact [SAC](#) at 773-508-3700 or SAC@luc.edu.