

Description

CHEM 380 – Discussion of chemistry and biochemistry topics and experience in what constitutes a science presentation through participation in Senior seminar preparation and discussion. 1 credit.

CHEM 491 – Literature and/or research presentation development, with an emphasis on topic choice, development of a seminar, and oral presentation of the seminar. This will also include development of writing skills through the submission of a seminar abstract. 2 credits.

Objectives

1. To gain experience in how a seminar is developed and presented
2. To gain experience in how to communicate your topic through an abstract
3. To gain experience in topics in chemistry and biochemistry through peer-given seminars

Instructor

Stuart Haring
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Email: stuart.haring@ndsu.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Schedule

Thurs.	5:30-6:45 PM	152 Dunbar	Haring
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Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

CHEM 380

Attendance and Evaluations
Practice Talks with Senior
Pre-Seminar Questions

CHEM 491

Attendance and Evaluations
Title and Abstract
Practice Talks with Juniors
Seminar
Short Exams

Grading Policy *

The above evaluation criteria will be graded on a +/- letter grading scale. In other words, for every criteria, you will be assigned a letter grade of A+, A, A-, etc. The balance of these will then constitute your final grade.

Attendance and Evaluations

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. At the beginning of each class period, you will be provided with an evaluation worksheet. This will need to be filled out and turned in at the end of the class period (one per speaker). Once recorded, any identification will be removed, and the worksheets will be given to the speaker as a method of anonymous feedback.

Pre-Seminar Questions and Practice Talk Attendance (CHEM 380 only)

During the first class meeting, a seminar schedule will be formulated. Each Junior seminar student will be assigned to THREE Senior seminar speakers. It is that Junior seminar student's responsibility: 1) to contact the Senior seminar speaker, obtain information from the speaker (most likely in the form of relevant literature), 2) to attend a practice talk by the speaker before the seminar and offer critiques, and 3) to develop two questions (typed before class) that can be asked following the Senior seminar of their assigned speakers. These questions will be used to lead into further discussion following the seminars. The practice talks will be arranged between the Senior and Junior students, and Junior students will evaluate their interactions with the Senior students.

Seminar (CHEM 491 only)

Once the seminar schedule is formulated, each Senior Seminar student will be required to develop and present a 15 min. seminar. It is understood that some students will have research experience, and these students will be given the opportunity to present their research in this forum. For students who do not have research experience or choose not to present research, the seminar should be focused on a particular topic and should be a thorough review of that topic. In either case, the seminar should be accessible to juniors or seniors in chemistry or biochemistry. The seminar must be practiced in front of the Junior questioners prior to presentation to the rest of the class. The Senior students will evaluate their interactions with the Junior students.

Seminar Title and Abstract (CHEM 491 only)

Senior Seminar students will be required to submit the title of their talk and a 1-2 paragraph abstract (1200 characters or less) that is a succinct description of the research or literature to be presented. The title and abstract will be due ONE week before that particular student's presentation. Do not plagiarize, as the abstracts will be checked using SafeAssign.

Short Exams (CHEM 491 only)

Our department has developed six exams that cover the entire undergraduate chemistry/biochemistry curriculum. These exams will be available on Blackboard at designated times, and are a method to assess our curriculum and how students are faring in our program. These exams will be treated as only a very minor portion of the grade (*i.e.*, complete or incomplete).

Excused/Unexcused Absences

I realize that unforeseen circumstances may arise that result in a missed lecture(s), lab(s), quiz(zes), or exam(s). Excused absences include the following: 1) an illness or medical emergency that has been documented by a physician or counselor, or 2) participation in a University-sanctioned event (*e.g.*, athletic event). An absence may also be deemed excusable at my discretion. All other absences will be considered unexcused.

Course Etiquette

Technology is a wonderful thing. However, it can also be disruptive to the learning environment. Therefore, I ask that you please turn off/silence all cell phones during the class period. The instructor's mobile phone number is registered with NDSU's CENS as per NDSU Policy, Section 721: Campus Emergency Notification Systems (CENS) (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/721.htm>), should an emergency occur during the class period.

Students with Disabilities

Any students with disabilities or special needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible. Special arrangements may be initiated by contacting Disability Services at (701) 231-7198. Please go to <http://www.ndsu.edu/counseling/disability.shtml> for more information.

Academic Honesty Statement

All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.edu/policy/335.htm>). Failure to comply will result in an automatic zero for that particular criterion. Continued violation will result in additional disciplinary action, which may include failure of the class, academic suspension, and expulsion from the University.

Final Remarks

I will do my best to adhere to the above schedule and policies; however, circumstances may dictate that changes need to be made. Therefore, I have the authority to amend the above stated policies at any time, if necessary. All students will be informed immediately of any changes through Blackboard.

It is my hope that by reading and going over the above policies, any questions or doubts that may arise now or during the semester will be easily and satisfactorily rectified.