

CHM 6690
INORGANIC CHEMISTRY SEMINARS

Objective: to increase student proficiency in delivering scientific presentations by presenting their graduate research, and by participating in seminars given by professionals in the field.

Course Structure:

Students are required to attend weekly seminars that will be given either by professionals (e.g., faculty or staff scientists from other institutions) or by their peers. Students will be expected to present one seminar as outlined below.

Beginning in the third year, each student is required to present a seminar each year during the Fall or Spring semester. The first required seminar will consist of an introduction that frames the project appropriately followed by research results obtained to date. These seminars will be 25 minutes in length followed by questions. In the *fourth* and *fifth* years, the student will present a fifty (50) minute seminar on their research. The student is expected to provide an informative introduction that outlines the scope of the project and may relate current literature where appropriate, followed by significant research results. The full seminar will be fifty minutes in length followed by a question and answer period.

Attendance is required at all seminars including invited speakers and students' talks. A reason should be provided to the course instructor for any absence from seminar. Acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena).

Expectations and Evaluation:

Students are expected to gain practice and so improve their scientific presentation skills through their own presentations as well as by observing and participating in lectures delivered by professional researchers in the field. Students will be evaluated by the course instructor (S/U grading) based on weekly attendance (>90% for S, accounting for approved/excused absences), participation in seminars, and in the quality of their own presentation. Students are responsible for signing the attendance sheet before seminars (except for those given by invited speakers); these attendance sheets will be the only official record of attendance.

As is currently typical in the field, students will use slides in programs such as MS Powerpoint as a visual aid for their talks. The expectation is that students will learn how to develop a rapport with the audience and not read from their visual aids but use their slides as tools in support of their oral presentation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The outcome for the course is that students will learn the techniques and styles appropriate for delivering scientific presentations and engaging the audience in scientific discussion by weekly attendance and participation in seminars by (i) invited experts in the field and (ii) their graduate student peers, as well as through crafting their own presentations for the faculty and students, primarily of the inorganic division.

Advice:

1. Presentations should be given using MS Powerpoint or a similar presentation program.
2. Do not read your slides word-for-word to your audience. Your slides are visual aids and should not replace you in the seminar.
3. Practice your presentation including the use of your slides to an audience (e.g., two or three fellow graduate students), who will provide you with critical feedback and so that you can ensure that your talk is of the appropriate length (i.e., you will not exceed the allotted time).