

CHM 6590
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY SEMINAR SERIES
Fall Semester 2021

INSTRUCTORS:	David Wei	Russ Bowers
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CLASS SCHEDULE:

August 23rd – December 8th
Tuesdays 11:45am – 1:40pm
Location: Virtual via Zoom

TOPICS & COURSE DESCRIPTION

The dissemination of knowledge and the quest to seek out new knowledge are critical to the scientific process and important skills to develop for successful careers both in and outside of scientific research. In this course, students will have the opportunity to attend seminars in the area of Physical Chemistry, which will be given by visiting speakers and graduate students qualifying in the Physical Chemistry Division. Seminars will cover a broad range of topics related to Physical Chemistry. Even when the topic is not close to your research interests, there is always something new to learn, a way to connect with your own interests and an opportunity to learn new things.

The goals of the course are to broaden the awareness of cutting edge research topics, to provide a professional and friendly environment that encourages students to fully participate and ask questions, and to learn and practice how to communicate your own scientific discoveries. Additionally, all students have opportunities to interact directly with visiting speakers in smaller group settings.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are assigned different responsibilities, which include coffee cart organization, introduction of speakers, and seminar presentations. These responsibilities consist of the following:

Introduction of speakers: You must prepare the introduction BEFORE seminar time. Introduction to a speaker usually includes (at least) the school where she/he did the undergraduate or MSc degree, special awards the student has received (fellowships, Early Career Phys Chem award, teaching awards while at UF, etc), the research topic they are working on and the title of their seminar. You are also responsible to call on members of the audience for questions, and there must be at least TWO questions from students before we can move on to questions from faculty.

Seminar presentation: a 20 minutes talk (with 5 minutes for questions) prepared for a general audience with a Physical Chemistry background. Additionally, all student speakers are required to provide a brief "safety seminar" prior to the start of

your scientific presentation. The safety seminar should last for one minute and consist of one or (at most) two slides that focus on 1 safety topic related to work in your laboratory.

Keep in mind that your fellow graduate students have a background in physical chemistry, but **not in the area** you are presenting. Thus a good introduction to the field is always very important. For those students without enough results from their own research, a literature seminar can be presented (once) which will include a survey of work in an area of their choice. For students presenting, feedback will be provided via a format that will be communicated during the first seminar.

Talk with the speaker: When the presentation is from an outside speaker, PChem graduate students will host a conversation with the speaker immediately after the talk (about 1 PM), in the same zoom link as the conference (Laura will provide a new link otherwise).

Attendance is not required but is highly encouraged for ALL physical chemistry students. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with scientific experts, to ask questions that you might have about their research, research in general, career paths or to engage in general discussion with an established academic scientist. We hope you will take full advantage of the occasion to engage with visiting speakers in this informal environment.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to seminar is required for every Physical Chemistry student, starting in their 2nd year until they graduate. Attendance will be documented by our administrative assistant Laura Myers when you sign in to the Zoom session. Leaving before the end of the seminar or signing in to the seminar but not viewing the seminar are considered violations to the UF honor code.

Unexcused absences: You are allowed up to 2 unexcused absences. If you need to leave before seminars ends, you can delete your signature and consider it one of those unexcused absences.

Excused absences: These are *planned* absences that include illness, needing to keep going on an experiment and family-related issues. Requests to skip a seminar with an excused absence will be reasonably granted provided they are communicated to either Dr. Wei or Dr. Bowers via email by midnight the day before the seminar. No excuses will be accepted after that time.

For emergency situations, contact Dr. Wei or Dr. Bowers ASAP and we will consider each situation in a case-by case-scenario.

COURSE GRADING:

S/U will be assigned based on participation in the course as defined by

1. attendance
2. introduction duties
3. giving a well thought presentation (for those students that are assigned to present)
4. providing feedback via the student evaluations

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Student talks are meant as a way to improve your communication skills, and to that end, everybody benefits from feedback. This will be done through student evaluations for every student speaker – the speaker will receive all feedback together with no information of who provided it.

The feedback should be actionable by the speaker: good talk, unclear talk, ... are not actionable. What worked so that we can keep it? What was unclear so we can improve it? Think about what kind of feedback would be useful for you to improve your talks when you are writing the feedback for others.

At the end of each talk visit the following link to provide feedback:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rrn7n_8p8AXVeFZQ3Av2MTcxDUHp7G1qs38Y_z0Uoqk/viewform?edit_requested=true

HONOR CODE:

The student honor code can be found at

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

The students, instructor and TAs are honor bound to comply with the Honors Pledge:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requiring special accommodations need to register at the Dean of Student Offices and bring the documentation to the instructor.

Counseling services are available at <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> or call (352)-392-1575 during regular service hours (8am-5pm). For other hours or weekends call the Alachua County Crisis Center (264-6789). Students may also call the clinician on-call at Student Mental Health for phone callback and consultation at (352)-392-1171.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Counseling services are available at <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> or call (352)-392-1575 during regular service hours (8am-5pm). For other hours or weekends call the Alachua County Crisis Center (264-6789). Students may also call the clinician on-call at Student Mental Health for phone callback and consultation at (352)-392-1171.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:

None

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

STATEMENT ON ONLINE INSTRUCTION AND PRIVACY

In response to COVID-19, all fall 2021 seminars are held in an online format. Our class sessions may be audio and visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.