

Syllabus - Organic Chemistry Seminar CHM 6390, Spring 2023

Instructor: Brent Sumerlin | **email:** sumerlin@chem.ufl.edu | **office:** SIS 301 | **phone:** 352-392-0563

The Organic Chemistry Seminar consists of two 25-min student presentations during each session or one 50-min presentation from a visiting lecturer. All organic division graduate students are expected to attend all seminars. Organic graduate students in their 2nd – 4th years will deliver one seminar each year, either during the fall or spring term according to the schedule constructed by the instructor and circulated at the beginning of each semester.

Students in their 2nd – 4th years who are either presenting or attending seminars must register for CHM 6390.

Location of Seminars: This course will be offered in person only. Seminars are generally held on either Tuesdays or Thursday from 4 – 5 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium of the Scott Family Chemistry Building (SFCB). For special seminars (e.g., Tarrant Lectures, Butler Lectures), other days, times, and rooms may be selected. The seminar schedule circulated at the beginning of the semester should be consulted for all times and locations of seminars. Note that this is subject to change.

Refreshments: Coffee and light snacks will be provided by the division, depending on the availability of administrative support.

Content of Seminar: All student talks will be 25 ± 2 min + 3 min for discussion. All presentations are expected to be of high quality and clarity, using PowerPoint, ChemDraw and other professional graphics tools.

- **2nd Year Students**:** Students in their 2nd year of graduate study will be presenting at the seminar for the first time. The 25-min seminar should be a literature-based presentation on a topic directly related to their project. You are also welcome to tie this presentation into your research, but your research should not be the primary focus. In other words, the seminar should focus on a research area that will give you a better understanding of relevant chemistry as you begin your Ph.D. research. You are strongly encouraged to seek your research advisor's input.
- **3rd and 4th Year Students:** Students in their 3rd and 4th year of graduate study will give a 25-min seminar primarily focused on their own research. The seminar should provide relevant background for the work, drawing from the literature and/or relevant related research in their advisor's laboratory. The presentation should articulate the objectives and significance of the research and then provide a clear update on the progress, summarizing what is novel and impactful with respect to the results that are presented.
- **Discussion Period:** Following each external seminar, there will be a 2-min discussion period where attendees will discuss the presentation with their peers and formulate questions to ask the speaker.
- For the purpose of the seminar course, students who enter the organic graduate program in January will be considered as 2nd-year students in their first fall semester. The seminar instructor will make every effort to schedule January entering students to present in their 2nd spring term, but those students should register for the seminar course (CHM 6390) starting in their first fall term.

Seminar Titles: A concise seminar title should be emailed to Brady Anderson (brady.anderson@ufl.edu) 10 business days prior to one's seminar.

Seminar Grading and Feedback: Seminar attendance and course registration (CHM 6390) is mandatory for graduate students in the 2nd – 4th years, but all students, including those in their 1st year are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions. Grades will be assigned in the course according to the following criteria. All seminars listed on the schedule circulated at the beginning of the semester will be used to calculate the percentage of seminars attended unless specific seminars are explicitly identified on the schedule as optional/not required.

- Students must sign in to each seminar to indicate their attendance. If a student who is present signs in a student who is absent, both students will be referred for academic dishonesty and will receive a failing grade for the semester. There are currently no plans for concurrent Zoom broadcasts or an online attendance option. Students should attend the seminars in person. The only excused absences will be for teaching assignments that have been relayed via a written statement sent to Brady Anderson (brady.anderson@ufl.edu) no later than the second Wednesday after the start of the semester.
- Students not presenting during a given semester (i.e., attending only) are assigned a grade of A-E based on attendance, with a grade of A for attendance of 81-100%, B for 60-80%, C for 40-59%, D for 20-39%, and E for ≤19%.
- Students presenting during a given semester are assigned a grade of A-E based on quality and delivery of slides, clarity and comprehensibility, timing, and giving proper 10-day advanced notice of their title to Kiersten Allison. The grade for the semester is reduced by one letter grade for presenters whose attendance is 60-80% of all seminars, two letter grades if attendance 40-59%, three letter grades if attendance is 20-39%, and four letter grades if attendance is ≤19%.
- Presenting students will be graded by the instructor, with advisement from the faculty present for the seminar.
- Feedback can be obtained from the instructor by appointment within one week following the seminar.