

Syllabus

CHEM 380 Chemistry Seminar (Spring 2016)

Course Instructors

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Course Schedule

Thursday 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM in Flanner Hall 133 (auditorium)

Objective

In this course you will learn to obtain, process, and evaluate research-related information. Each week, there will be a seminar or a presentation by professionals (12 presentations total). The topics of the talks will cover the entire range of chemistry, and the talks will be given largely by outside speakers. Each attendance is worth 10 points, and eleven (11) attendances will be counted to the overall grade. You will use what you learned from the speaker and what you searched on the web to write a report. Each report is worth 10 points, and the lowest report grade will be dropped.

Grading

1) 11 Attendances (10 points each)	110
2) 11 Reports (10 points each)	110
Total	220

Final Grades

The final grades will be given as shown below.

A	= 205–220
A–	= 200–204
B+	= 195–199
B	= 190–194
B–	= 185–189
C+	= 180–184
C	= 175–179
C–	= 170–174
D+	= 165–169
D	= 160–164
F	= 0–159

Reports

Your *ten-point* report is limited to **one** page with **single-spaced**, and it **must** contain the following four parts (A, B, C, & D):

- A: Speaker's name and affiliation (0.5 points each; 1 point total).
- B: Explanation of the importance and originality of the research presented in the seminar using a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences (2.5 points).
- C: Evaluation of the quality of the presentation, indicating the features of the presentation or speaker you did or did not like. Also indicate whether or not you found the seminar interesting and easy to follow. Limit your response to a maximum of 5 meaningful sentences (2.5 points).

- D: An evaluation of the quality of the speaker's research. The evaluation should contain the following data. Most, if not all, of this information can be found in the Web of Science, and your TA will demonstrate how to search for it during the first week of classes (4 points total):
- (1) The speaker's Hirsch index (h-index) (1.5 points).
 - (2) Number of articles published by the speaker in the past 5 years (i.e. 2011–2016) (1 point).
 - (3) The full reference of a published article, including the numerical value of the impact factor for the journal (1 point).
 - (4) Funding agencies for the presented research (These are usually mentioned by the speaker at the very end or very beginning of the seminar) (0.5 points).

Short Reports for 2/4, 3/3 & 4/7

Out of the 12 seminars, 3 talks will be given by professionals from the Library (**Feb 4**), the Pre-Health Program (**March 3**), and the Career Development Center (**April 7**) at Loyola. These seminars are designed to provide useful information about career opportunities, research and job searching techniques, and other issues important for individuals beginning their professional careers. For each of these special seminars, a brief one-page report must be submitted that contains the following information:

- 1) The main issues presented (5 points).
- 2) An indication of how these issues could be useful for you in the future. And, if not, why? (5 points).

Deadlines & Bonus Points

The deadline to submit the report is immediately prior to the beginning of the next seminar. The last report of the semester (on the April 21 seminar) must be submitted to the TA as a hard copy during the class evaluation period on April 28 or electronically by 5 pm on April 28. If all the students participate in the online evaluation on IDEA (i.e. response rate = 100%), five points will be awarded to each student.

Missed Assignments

Any illness, accident, or family crisis that results in a missed assignment must be communicated within two calendar days to the instructor and TA by email. Supporting documentation (e.g. doctor's note, obituary) must be provided to the instructor to verify the event. *Only under these exceptional circumstances* can a missed seminar be made up by submitting a report that contains Parts A and D. Note that out of a total 12 seminars, only the best 11 reports will count toward assignment of letter grades. You may use a missed seminar as the lowest scored assignment.

Class Conduct

Laptops, tablets, etc. are allowed during the seminar to take notes; however, anyone caught browsing the web (Facebook, email, ESPN, etc.) will receive a zero on their report. You must work on your reports individually. Identical or very similar reports submitted by two or more students will be scored as a missed assignment and will be reported to the Dean as a violation of Academic Integrity. All students in this course are expected to have read and to abide by the demanding standard of personal honesty, drafted by the College of Arts & Sciences, that can be viewed at: <http://www.luc.edu/cas/advising/academicintegritystatement/>

Attendance Check & Report Submission

Students are required to attend all seminars, pay attention to the speaker, and remain until the seminar has ended. It is not acceptable to turn in your report and leave by another door before the

seminar has begun or ended. Nor is it acceptable to turn in another student's report along with your own. The required seminar attendance will be verified by your personal signature on an attendance sheet at the time of submission of your own report to the TA before the seminar begins as well as by your own signature at the end of the seminar.

Course/Instructor Evaluation – IDEA

Loyola has the IDEA program for instructor and course evaluations. At the end of the semester, you will complete an online evaluation of this course based on criteria set by IDEA and by the instructor. For this course, the main objectives are as follows:

- 1) Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
- 2) Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems
- 3) Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Keep these objectives in mind throughout the course.

Students with Disabilities

By the end of the first week of classes, students who need special testing accommodations should give the instructor documentation that has been approved by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD).

Changes to Syllabus

There may be changes to the syllabus during the semester. ***You are responsible for all syllabus changes made in class whether or not you attend.***