Seminar in Chemistry: Chem 492, Section 03

Course Instructor: John Taylor, WR 278; taylor@rutchem.rutgers.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Class time and location: Thursdays, 1:55 pm – 4:30 pm, SEC-218

Course description:

Development of communication skills needed by professionals in chemistry and related fields. Oral reports, discussions of topics of current interest, journal club, and poster sessions. Introduction to the chemical research literature.

Open only to seniors.

Course Requirements:

1. Oral presentations: Each student will give two oral presentations, as follows:

   (a) Presentation of the student’s own ongoing research project, OR presentation of a major article of interest chosen from the Tuesday science section of the New York Times within the past year. In each of these classes, there will be four presentations of 15 – 20 min. duration each, followed by a 5 – 10 min. discussion.

   (b) Presentation using PowerPoint slides of an article taken from Accounts of Chemical Research within the past two years (2013 – 2015). In this assignment, there will be three 30 min. presentations per class, followed by 5 – 10 min. discussion.

2. All presentation topics must be approved by the instructor, who will post the topics on the sakai site for the course in advance of each class. Do not start preparing your presentations until they have been approved.

3. All students will participate in discussions of these presentations, and then produce a brief typed summary and critique of one presentation each week to the instructor, due at the beginning of the next class.

4. Attendance: All students will attend each scheduled class, unless specifically excused by permission of the instructor. Students will sign an attendance sheet in each class.

5. Resume: All students will provide the instructor with a resume by Spring Break. Students may be advised to modify or develop their resumes, with a final version due in the last scheduled class.
Course Grades:

Oral presentations: 50% Evaluation based on (a) clarity of oral presentation; (b) clarity and appropriate use of visual aids (PowerPoint slides, usually); (c) suitable content: such as specific aims of the work, background, experimental design and methods, conclusions, future directions; (d) critical evaluation of the work overall.

Discussion participation: 20%

Presentation summaries and critiques: 20%

Resume: 10%

Class Schedule:

1/22 Week 1 Organizational meeting
1/29 Week 2 Research/Science Times
2/05 Week 3 Research/Science Times
2/12 Week 4 Research/Science Times
2/19 Week 5 Research/Science Times
2/26 Week 6 Research/Science Times
3/05 Week 7 Accounts of Chemical Research
3/12 Week 8 Accounts of Chemical Research
Spring Break
3/26 Week 9 Accounts of Chemical Research
4/02 Week 10 Accounts of Chemical Research
4/09 Week 11 Accounts of Chemical Research
4/16 Week 12 Accounts of Chemical Research
4/23 Week 13 Accounts of Chemical Research
4/30 Week 14 Accounts of Chemical Research
Presentation schedule

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