

**Course Syllabus**  
**Chem 481: Chemistry Seminar**

**Course Name:** Chem 481: Chemistry Seminar.

1 credit

**Prerequisites:** COJO 131 or COJO 141.

**Location:** Reichardt Building 201B

**Meeting Time:** Tues 4:00 - 5:00, Thurs 4:00 - 5:00

**Blackboard Link:** <http://classes.uaf.edu>

Please note: Check your blackboard information – **particularly your e-mail address**. Important course information and reminders will be e-mailed via this system. All course materials will be available through Blackboard.

**Instructor:** Dr. Tom Trainor

**Office Hours:** T&TH 2-4PM (other times by appointment).

**Office:** Reichardt Building, Room 176

**Phone:** 907 474-5628

**E-mail:** [tptrainor@uaf.edu](mailto:tptrainor@uaf.edu)

**Text (recommended):**

The Craft of Scientific Presentations  
Michael Alley  
Springer -Verlag, New York  
ISBN: 0387955550  
Publication Date: 2008

**Course Description:**

This is the first in a two-semester sequence in oral communication required for the B.S. degree in Chemistry. Together, these two courses provide an introduction to the techniques and style of technical oral presentation generally accepted by professional chemists. Class will meet two hours per week, the first hour in open session, the second in closed session. Chem 481 students are required to attend all of the public seminars (Tuesdays) and participate in critiquing presentations by graduate students, chemistry faculty, and their peers during the Thursday session.

**Note:** The oral communication intensive credit is earned upon successful completion of both CHEM F481 and Chem482.

**Course Goals:**

Develop an overall understanding of the principles of oral communication in science including accepted presentation techniques, listening skills, critical analysis of scientific presentations, participation in scientific discussions and introduction of speakers.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate an ability to listen to a scientific presentation and to ask pertinent questions regarding the material presented.
2. Actively participate in a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of a speaker's presentation and/or the scientific merit of the research presented.
3. Provide clear concise written critiques of research and/or journal presentations with respect to presentation style, multimedia and content.
4. Demonstrate the ability to introduce a seminar speaker in a professional and appropriate manner as described by the course directors.

**Instructional Methods:**

Chem 481 students are required to attend at all class sessions and participation in all class activities. Students will be expected to listen to all presentations during the Tuesday public seminar session and to ask relevant and probing questions during the question/answer period. In addition detailed, written critiques of all presentations will be required and all Chem 481 students will be expected to attend and participate in the discussion of these critiques during the Thursday closed session.

To provide some public speaking experience in Chem 481, students will be required to write and deliver a public introduction for seminar speakers at least once during the semester and to participate in any public speaking exercises conducted during the semester.

**Course Policies:****Attendance:**

Due to the dependence on participation, students are expected to attend all class sessions.

**Exams:**

There will be no examinations in this course. Grading will be based on attendance, quality of participation and quality of written critiques.

**Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's intellectual property without correct citation of the author. Intellectual property includes all electronic, spoken or print media. Students are expected to cite all sources used in oral and written presentations. Citations should be cited according to the Columbia Guide to Style (see: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx\\_basic.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html) for more information). Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with severely with the minimum penalty being a grade of 0 for the assignment in question. Cases may be referred to the Department Chair or Dean for further action.

**Conduct:**

Your conduct in this course is expected to be professional and respectful at all times. Disruptive or abusive students will be removed from the classroom and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Grading and Evaluation of Performance.**

It is expected that students will complete all of the Learning Objectives listed above.

Grading in this course is on a Pass/Fail basis. A minimum passing grade will be given to students who have completed the following requirements:

1. Passing grade on written critiques. (Defined as a passing grade for 75% of all required critiques).
2. Satisfactory attendance at all class sessions. (Attendance of all class sessions unless excused by the instructor and relevant discussion during the question/answer period).
3. Satisfactory performance on seminar introduction. (A well researched and delivered introduction).
4. Satisfactory performance in Thursday discussions. (A well delivered summary of the written critique when requested along with well thought out responses to questions.)

**Speaking Lab.** Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the Speaking Lab. The Speaking Center is a student-oriented service provided to facilitate preparing public presentations. Students can receive coaching in refining their presentation topic, in organizing their presentation effectively, and in practicing their presentation. The center is located in the Department of Communication (Gruening Rm 507). <http://www.uaf.edu/speak/>

**Disabilities Services:**

We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability and require special assistance, please contact the instructor within the first week of the course so that special arrangements may be made early.