

# Chemistry 481: Chemistry Seminar (2.0 Credits)

Instructor: Dr. DUFFY  
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 Class Time: TR 4:00 - 5:00, REIC  
 Office Hours: TR 5:00 - 6:00 PM, or by appointment

Prerequisites: Comm 131 or Comm 141

Required Text book: Available electronically from UAF Library.  
 The Craft of Scientific Presentations, 2nd Edition

Michael Alley  
 Springer-Verlag, New York  
 Publication Date: 2013

## 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 is open session, and the second is closed session. Chem 481 students are required to attend all of the public seminars (Tuesdays, sometimes Thursdays) 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. For 482, a presentation is required.

## 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 and invited guests.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an ability to listen to a scientific presentation and to ask pertinent questions regarding the material presented.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research presented in a peer-reviewed article and to answer questions posed by the audience on this research at the end of the presentation.

3. Actively participate in a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of a speaker's presentation and/or the scientific merit of the research presented.
4. Provide clear concise written critiques of research and/or journal presentations with respect to presentation style, multimedia and content.
5. 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 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 Center at UAF:**

In preparing your oral presentations for this class, consider using the UAF Speaking Center for coaching and practice. The Center is located in 507 Gruening Building. Call 474-5470 for Speaking Center hours and to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, but an appointment is best.

#### **Disabilities Services:**

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials.

Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me during the first two weeks of class. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (\*208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services.

#### **Veteran Support Services:**

Walter Cray is the Veterans Service Officer at the Veterans Resource Center, 111 Elelson Building. 474-2475. (wecray@alaska.edu) Fairbanks Vet Center 456-4238. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Ft. Wainwright is 361-6370.

### **Amending this Syllabus:**

Amendments and changes to the syllabus, including evaluation and grading mechanisms, are possible. The instructor must initiate any changes. Changes to the grading and evaluation scheme can be made before the add/drop date without a vote, but after that date must be voted on by the entire class and approved only with unanimous vote of all students present in class on the day the issue is decided. The lecture schedule and reading assignments (Daily Schedule) will not require a vote and may be altered at the instructor's discretion. This Daily Schedule can be found on Blackboard. Grading changes that unilaterally and equitably improve all students' grades will not require a vote. Once approved, amendments will be distributed in writing to all students via Blackboard.

# UAF Governance

UAF Governance Home / Faculty Senate / Curriculum / Syllabus Addendum

## Syllabus Addendum

The UAF Faculty Senate approved the concept of the syllabus addendum in May 2020. The syllabus addendum contains non-academic information for all UAF syllabi. See a Google Doc version of the syllabus addendum [linked here](#).

Syllabus Addendum (Revised 8/18/2021)

COVID-19 statement: Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website: <https://alaska.google.com/alaska.edu/governance/uaf?authuser=0>

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

Student protections statement: UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: <https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

Disability services statement: I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

### Student Academic Support:

- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu), Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, [uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu), Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, [uafmathstatlab@gmail.com](mailto:uafmathstatlab@gmail.com) & Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List ([https://www.uaf.edu/advising/ir/SKM\\_344918011717281.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/advising/ir/SKM_344918011717281.pdf))

### Student Resources:

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, [uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu), Whitaker 208)
- Student Health & Counseling [6 free counseling sessions] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/ehc/appointments.php>, Whitaker 208)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, [uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu), Elelson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, [asuaf@alaska.edu](mailto:asuaf@alaska.edu), Wood Center 119)

Nondiscrimination statement: The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](https://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination). For more information, contact:

UAF Department of Equity and Compliance  
1692 Tok Lane, 3rd floor, Constitution Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99775  
907-474-7300  
[uaf-deo@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-deo@alaska.edu)

**University Statement for courses including off-campus programs and research activities:**

**University Sponsored Off-Campus Programs and Research Activities**

We want you to know that:

1. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).
2. Incidents can be reported to your university's Equity and Compliance office (listed below) or online reporting portal. University of Alaska takes immediate, effective, and appropriate action to respond to reported acts of discrimination and harassment.
3. There are supportive measures available to individuals that may have experienced discrimination.
4. University of Alaska's Board of Regents' Policy & University Regulations (UA BoR P&R) 01.02.020 Nondiscrimination and 01.04 Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination Under Title IX, go to: <http://alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/>.
5. UA BoR P&R apply at all university owned or operated sites, university sanctioned events, clinical sites and during all academic or research related travel that are university sponsored.

For further information on your rights and resources [click here](#).

**Contact information**

Governance Office  
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Phone: 907-474-7964

Physical address:  
328 Signers' Hall  
1510 Satcha Street

Mailing address:  
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Fairbanks, AK 99776



The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a member of the UAF System, a Consortium of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the University of Alaska Seward. The UAF System is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. The UAF System is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. The UAF System is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

For more information regarding this policy, please visit the UAF System website.

**Table 1-1. Advantages and disadvantages of making a presentation.**

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
1. Chance to field questions from audience	1. One chance for speaker to talk; one chance for audience to hear
2. Chance to read expressions of audience	2. Difficult for the audience to look up background information
3. Chance to use delivery to emphasize key points	3. Audience restricted to pace of speaker
4. Ability to incorporate many types of visual aids	4. Success dependent on speaker's ability to deliver
5. Assurance that audience has witnessed the content	5. Difficulty in assembling speaker and audience