CHEM F482
Seminar
Spring 2019

CRN: 73271 **Credits**: 2 credits
Lecture: REIC 201, Tues/Thurs 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Prerequisites: CHEM 481

Instructor:

Thomas Green, Ph.D.
Office: REIC 174
Office Hrs: Tues 2-4 pm or by appt
Phone: (907) 474-1559
Email: tkgreen@alaska.edu

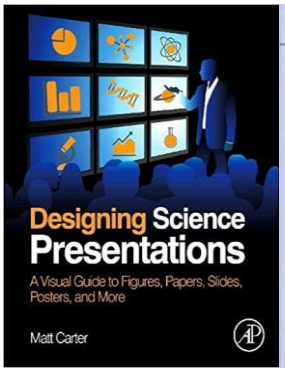
Catalog Course Description: This is the second in a two-semester sequence in oral communication required for the B.S. degree in Chemistry. Together, these two courses provide an introduction to the techniques and style of technical oral presentation generally accepted by professional chemists. Class will meet two hours per week, the first hour in open session, the second in closed session. Chem 482 students are required to give one 40 minute oral presentation during the semester on a date scheduled by the instructor, attend all of the other public seminars (Tuesdays) and participate in critiquing presentations by graduate students, chemistry faculty, and their peers during the Thursday session.

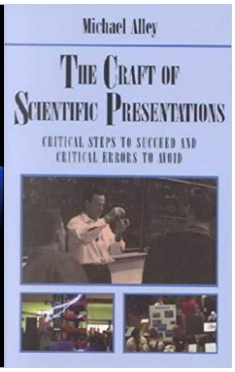
Note: The oral communication intensive credit is earned upon successful completion of both CHEM F481 and Chem482.

Course Materials:

Recommended Text: *Designing Science Presentations: A Visual Guide to Figures, Papers, Slides, Posters, and More*, Matt Carter – Academic Press, San Diego, 2013 **ISBN: 978-0-12-385969-3**

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





Important Dates:

Aug. 27th: First day of class
Sept. 7th: Deadline for adding classes, late registration, drops with no appearance on academic record
Nov. 2nd: Last day for withdrawal with W
Dec. 9th: Last day of instruction
Dec. 19th: Grades Posted

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.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students should be able to:

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.
5. Demonstrate the ability to present scientific material during a 40 minute presentation of a peer-reviewed research article.

Course Structure. Chem 482 students are required to attend at all class sessions and participation in all class activities in addition to preparing and presenting their individual seminar. 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 482 students will be expected to attend and participate in the discussion of these critiques during the Thursday closed session.

Since a large portion of Chem482 is the interpretation, analysis and presentation of a scientific study, the course will utilize a mentorship approach. Mentors are faculty members either within the Chemistry and Biochemistry department, faculty affiliated with the departmental graduate program or unaffiliated faculty or local professionals engaged in chemistry relevant research. Unaffiliated mentors must be approved in advance by the course instructor. Please see the mentors responsibilities below and provide this information to your mentor when you request their assistance.

A second major component of Chem482 is participation in a critical discussion of your presentation. This may involve additional questions regarding the content of the seminar in addition to constructive criticism of your presentation itself. While it can be difficulty to accept criticism, it is an essential part of scientific communication and you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner during these discussions.

Mentor Responsibilities:

Mentors are responsible for assisting students in choosing relevant topics that are of general interest and at an appropriate level of difficulty. Mentors are responsible for assisting the student in understanding the context of the research, interpreting data and identifying conclusions and impact of the study. It is expected that your mentor will listen to your seminar at least once and offer critical analysis for improving your presentation. You will be required to submit a Mentor form identifying your mentor and topic as indicated on the syllabus. A second mentor approval form will also be required. This form must be signed by the mentor verifying that they have listened to the presentation and it is ready for presentation on your assigned date. This form is due one week prior to your scheduled seminar. Mentors are encouraged to attend your public seminar

Grading and Evaluation of Performance.

It is expected that students will complete all of the Learning Objectives listed above. Grading in this course is A-F. Grades will be assigned based on successful completion of course requirements as described below. Each course requirement will be assigned a point value and you will receive all or a portion of these points depending upon the quality of your work. Oral presentations will be graded according to the rubric distributed in class. A minimum passing grade will be given to students who have completed the following requirements:

Points:

Mentor selection/topic form completed on time	5 pts
"Ready to Present" form signed by mentor and returned on time	5 pts
Seminar Presentation	60 pts
Attendance and critiques	30 pts
Total	**100 pts**

Grades:
A: ≥ 90 points
B: 80 – 89 points
C: 70 – 79 points
D: 60 – 69 points
F: < 60 points

Notes and 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.

Honor Code. Chemistry Department policy states that any student caught cheating on graded work will be assigned a course grade of F. Course drop forms will not be signed in these cases.

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 (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.

Instructor-Initiated Withdrawals. Until Friday, Nov 2nd the instructor has the right to withdraw a student who has not participated substantially in the course. Any of the following constitute non-participation: 1) Less than 75% attendance without an excused absence, 2) Less than 50% passing on written critiques.

Support & Accommodations:

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. The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and ensures 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. We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (*208 Whitaker, 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 Crary (wecrary@alaska.edu) is the Veterans Service Officer at the Veterans Resource Center, 111 Eielson Building, 474-2475. Fairbanks Vet Center: 456-4238. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Ft. Wainwright: 361-6370.

Student Support Services. The Student Support Services (SSS) program located in 512 Greuning (474- 6844), provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with college requirements, and serves to motivate students toward successful completion of their degree program.

Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action: The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska

Student protections and services statement: Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/

Amending this Syllabus: *Before the drop date, we may slightly revise the syllabus to correct for any errors. Revision at a later time would require majority vote by students present in class on day issue is decided. Any revisions will be distributed to all students via Blackboard and announced in class. Adjustments to the tentative lecture schedule, homework due dates and readings will be made throughout the course at the instructor's discretion and if so, communicated to students via Blackboard.*