

Research Presentation Techniques

Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Spring 2020

Instructor	Dr. William Simpson (REIC 186, Akasofu 335, 474-7235, 474-2436 wrsimpson@alaska.edu)
Office hours	Mon 10:00AM—11:00AM, Th 2:00PM-4:00PM, and by appointment
Meeting time	4:00 - 5:00PM Thursday, REIC 165
Text	Handouts in class
Credits	1

Course Description (from catalog)

Review of recent research in chemistry to expose students to recent findings, methodologies and concepts in a broad range of chemistry and related disciplines. How to present and defend research proposals. Course may be repeated for credit. Special fees apply. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in physical sciences or permission of instructor. (1+0)

Course Overview:

Chemistry 691 is designed to give graduate students practice in oral presentation techniques that include presentation of their research and defense of research proposals / scientific ideas. These skills are critical for success of our graduate students. For students who seek employment in industry, these skills will assist in successful interviewing and interaction with colleagues once employed. For academic-bound students, these skills are critical to their job placement and performance.

Learning Outcomes:

In this semester, you will prepare for an oral presentation defense. At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Make an effective presentation on their research.
- Learn how to reply to questions from examiners.
- Learn to ask constructive questions at presentations.

Course Structure :

The course will meet weekly for a 60-minute session. The instruction begins with lectures on oral presentation skills by the instructor, followed by student presentations and defense. Each student will:

- 1) Make a research presentation, either taken from their research or from the literature.
- 2) Defend their research presentation in the style of an oral defense of a M.S. thesis or a Ph.D. oral comprehensive, depending on the student's program.
- 3) Ask / formulate questions of the other students / speakers in their presentations.

In cases where there are relevant talks on campus, we may choose to have students attend those seminars. To document participation, students will write 2-3 questions that they would ask the speaker and hand that in to Professor Simpson.

Nondiscrimination policy: 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/

Disability Services: Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide documentation of your disability through the UAF Office of Disability Services. For more information, contact Disability Services at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu, 474-5655 or by TTY at 474-1827 or <http://www.uaf.edu/disability>.

Syllabus Revision: Before the drop date, we will set the schedule of presentations by students, which will fill in the table below. A revised copy of the syllabus will be distributed to all students and posted to Blackboard. Adjustments to the tentative lecture pacing and/or laboratory order below can be made by the instructor to best optimize use of class / lab time and will be communicated to students via Blackboard and email.

Grading:

Research presentation (40%), Quality of questions asked of other presenters / written questions of seminar speakers (25%), Defense of research presentation (25%), Participation (10%). The grading scale will be A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%. We will not be using +/- grading in this course.

Important dates:

Alaska Civil Rights Day (MLK birthday, holiday) Monday, 20 Jan
 Last day for drops (course does not appear) and 100% tuition+fee refund Friday, 24 Jan
 Spring Break (holiday) Monday - Friday, 9-13 Mar
 Last day for withdrawals (W appears on academic record) Friday, 28 Mar
 Final Exam (1:00-3:00PM) Friday, 1 May

Summary of Resources:

Faculty—Bill Simpson, NSF 186, 474-7235, wrsimpson@alaska.edu

Blackboard: Log into the blackboard system: <https://classes.alaska.edu/>

Schedule:

Week	Activity	Lead	Date
1	Introduction / scheduling	Simpson	16 Jan
2	Presentation skills and their importance	Simpson	23 Jan
3	Developing proposals	Simpson	30 Jan
4	Writing proposals	Simpson	6 Feb
5	Example research presentation	Simpson	13 Feb
6	Example questioning / Oral defense of research	Simpson	20 Feb
7	Research presentation	Student 1	27 Feb
8	Questioning / Oral defense of research	Student 1	5 Mar
9	Spring Break	----	12 Mar
10	Research presentation	Student 2	19 Mar
11	Questioning / Oral defense of research	Student 2	26 Mar
12	Research presentation	Student 3	2 Apr
13	Questioning / Oral defense of research	Student 3	9 Apr
14	Revisiting proposal concepts	All	16 Apr
15	Proposal review and evaluation	All	23 Apr
	Lessons learned discussion	All	May 1 at 1PM