

CHEM 3911/4912 - Junior/Senior Seminar Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Carole Brown
208 Rogers Hall
cebrown@ngcsu.edu
864-1506

Office Hours: M, W, Th, and F 11:00-12:00; Tu 10:00-12:00 and welcome by appointment

Lecture: 2:30pm-4:30pm Fridays in 307 Rogers Hall
1 credit hour

Course Objective: This course is an opportunity for you to prepare and deliver a seminar over a chemistry topic of your choice. You will also be expected to critically evaluate the seminars of your fellow students.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and Mrs. Elizabeth McIntosh, in the Office of Student Disability Resources at 706-867-2782 located in 122 Barnes Hall, to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

ACS JOURNAL ALERT!

In order to have easy access to the ACS journals required to make your seminar effective, you **must use the NGCSU web site to access these journals**. Please follow these links: NGCSU home page, library, Galileo, Science & Tech, Chem and Physics, and then ACS journals. The url will be: <http://pubs.acs.org>
This is the American Chemical Society's Publications webpage. It contains a search engine which will allow you to search ACS published journals. If you are on campus you will be able to download articles in most of the journals that have been published in the last few years. Please print these articles out in their pdf format, not as html.

Grading: You will be graded on the following :

- Selection of a Seminar Topic *appropriate to a chemistry major*.

There are chemistry journals and news magazines available in the department, in the library, and online that you may wish to consult for ideas. If you have a particular interest in a certain area of chemistry you may wish to consult with a specific faculty member to help you choose your topic. Seniors are strongly encouraged to give a seminar on a research project in which they have participated.

Please remember that these are chemistry seminars; therefore chemistry should be stressed in any topic chosen. If your Junior seminar evaluation stressed that you needed to cover more chemistry, please be advised that a greater penalty will be taken on your senior seminar for lack of a chemistry focus.

- **Research of the Chosen Topic:** For Juniors this will probably be a literature search only. For seniors this may include both a literature search and laboratory research.

You must use (and submit entire copies of) at least 3 primary sources in your references. A primary reference is a research article published in a peer reviewed journal. It is not an article from C & E News or a webpage. If in doubt, ASK. You must submit three primary references the day you submit your seminar topic. Your references and topic will be due 5 weeks before your presentation.

- **Other journals:**

<http://highwire.stanford.edu> - If you are looking for biochemical information this is a website with a search engine that allows you to search biomedical journals. Many of these have free access to journals. You can also search medline from this site.

<http://www.ngcsu.edu/Adminsrv/Library/webpage1.htm> - Yes, this is the NGCSU library. Click the Galileo link. There are links here to EBSCOhost and ProQuest. These will allow you to search multiple databases, though there don't seem to be many chemistry applicable databases included. There is an option you can click that will limit the search to full text articles. You will need to be on campus to use these databases.

- **Circulation of Seminar Announcement:** Each seminar presenter should prepare a flyer to be placed around Roger's Hall and the HNS building. You need to distribute at least 3 on each floor of Roger's and on the 2nd floor of the HNS building. You must remove them when your seminar is over. In addition, place one on Dr. Brown's door which will remain up the entire semester.

- **Oral Presentation:** For Juniors the presentation must be 20-25 minutes in length. For seniors the presentation must be 40-45 minutes in length. After each seminar there will be time for the audience to ask questions. Each presentation must contain some form of electronic, visual media, such as power point slides, and/or other sources of media. Please NUMBER YOUR SLIDES for easy reference during Q&A. It is YOUR responsibility, before the seminar time, to be sure your electronic presentation media is compatible with the computer on the mobile computer cart available for seminar.

It is also advised that if you are using other forms of media such as handouts or overheads, that these be prepared well in advance of the seminar, be clear and readable, and be circulated immediately before the given seminar.

- **Attendance:** Seminars will be given on Fridays from 2:30 - 5:20 PM. Attendance is mandatory. There are no exceptions. None. Don't even ask.

● **Class Participation:** Class participation will be defined as follows....

1. A minimum of n-2 questions must be asked during the semester (where n is the number of students). This is defined as 1+ questions asked in n-2 different seminars. There will be a substantial penalty if this requirement is not met.
2. One peer evaluation will be completed by each seminar student during the semester.
3. The seminar speaker will be introduced by a member of the seminar class. The current speaker will be introduced by the following speaker; the last speaker will be introduced by the first. Please make a note of which day you need to present a speaker. Seeing as attendance is *mandatory* there should be no reason to make alternate arrangements. Speakers should provide the introducing student with the following information:

- A. Full name, as the person wishes it announced
- B. Major(s) and year in school
- C. The name of the high school attended, any other colleges or universities attended
- D. Other degrees if they have been earned
- E. Relevant job or research experience that has been done or is being done
- F. The title of the presentation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Topic	5%
References	5 %
Title, outline	5 %
Announcement	5 %
Class Participation	10 %
Presentation	70 %

An evaluation sheet for the presentation is attached. LOOK AT THIS while preparing your seminar presentation.

Deadlines: Submission deadlines are listed below. Materials are due by 2:30 PM on the appropriate Friday. The times listed represent "weeks prior to your seminar date".

1. Seminar topic and primary references 5 weeks
2. List of References, seminar title, brief outline 3 weeks
3. Seminar announcement 1 week
4. Seminar presentation See schedule

Selected Seminar Comments from Spring 2001

What we liked:

Good volume and confidence in speaking
Definitely did her/his homework, good job (speaker's understanding)
Good reasonable answers logical thought progression and answered with confidence
Good job from your brain, and not notes!
Good organization of slides. Very neat and not too busy.
WONDERFUL!! This was a real seminar with real data
Explained ideas well and introduced future information as well as touching on past ideas
Good graphs and pictures as well as understandable explanations of them
Your preparation was evident
Very good professional, clear, easy to hear!
Good steady pace, hit time limit pretty much dead on
Seems to have good grasp of topic
Broad range of knowledge, comes up with good explanations

What we thought needed improvement:

Some reading (of slides, notes)
Keeps good contact with the audience but speaks too fast to understand at times; horrible grammar gaps
No chemistry of any kind for 10 minutes!! Then it was just a picture of a molecule
Seemed a bit short; so where is the chemistry? Seemed like a medical conference
A large # of areas not clearly explained and linked
Good diction; QUIT PACING!!
WHERE'S THE CHEMISTRY?? Didn't seem to know a lot about the topic
Should have understood [all topics in your seminar]; should have known the purpose of [all components of your seminar]
Could tie the ideas together and transition better
A bit choppy, could complete your sentences & take a deep breath
A bit fast (pace) and ran a little short
Not a lot of chemistry beyond general chemistry
Look at the audience, not the slides
Too much writing on some slides, text too small, too many words; figures too small and hard to see (especially structures)
I can barely hear this talk, you CAN NOT speak in your normal, conversational voice
Did you find ANY specific information? Seems like you relied on the internet too much and scientific literature too little