

CHEM 290 – Introduction to Research & Presentation Fall 2012, MF 12:30-1:20pm (SL102)

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Office hours: {Office hours subject to change, check web page}

Required Material: Curiosity
Willingness to be wrong

CHEM 290 – Introduction to Research & Presentation (2cr)

Participation in research can be an extremely rewarding way to experience science. Despite the benefits, it can be challenging to engage in productive research because “doing research” is not like “going to class”. There is very rarely a “correct” answer known in advance, and it is quite likely that the wrong answers will be more interesting than the result you might have expected. This class will explore the process of doing research from initial generation of ideas to good lab practices and tips to make your research experience more useful. In addition to the hands-on work of research, presentation of research is a critical skill. This presentation can take many forms from journal articles, to oral presentations at national meetings. This class will also develop presentation skills in a variety of settings.

Grading:

Tentative list of assignments:

Faculty Research Interviews	2 x 10pts = 20pts
Seminar summaries	2 x 10pts = 20pts
SciFinder search activity	10pts
Oral journal article review/summary	10pts
Poster critiques	3 x 5pts = 15pts
Poster draft	5pts
<u>Poster presentation</u>	<u>30pt</u>
<i>Total Points</i>	<i>110pts</i>

Tentative grade assignments are: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89.999%, C = 70-79.999%, D = 60-69.999%. These cutoffs *may* be lowered at the instructor’s discretion, but they will not be raised.

Faculty Research Interview – A 15-30 minute interview/meeting with a faculty member to discuss research opportunities

Seminar summaries – There will be at least 2 seminars held during class time. A 1-2 page summary.

SciFinder search activity – SciFinder is an online database that can be used to search the scientific literature.

Oral journal article review/summary – A 15-20 minute oral summary of a recent (2012) article from the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Poster critique – A 1-2 page evaluation of 4 posters.

Poster draft – Submitted at least 1 week before the class poster presentation.

Poster presentation – There will be a class poster session at the end of the semester, posters will be evaluated by everyone who attends the poster session.

Academic Honesty: Cheating will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of your College, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the MSUM Judicial Affairs Officer and the Student Conduct Committee for further disciplinary action. For a full description of the MSUM Academic Honesty Policy, please see the Student Handbook. {<http://www.mnstate.edu/s handbook/POLICY/index.htm>} The penalty for academic dishonesty will be a grade of “F” for the course and will be fully enforced.

Disability Access Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Director of Disability Services at 477-4318 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), Flora Frick 154 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Information regarding Disability Services is available at <http://web.mnstate.edu/disability/>