

Chemistry 498 – Senior Seminar

Dr. Jeffrey Bodwin
103E/407H Hagen Hall

477-4371 (office)

bodwin@mnstate.edu
www.drbodwin.com/teaching

CHEM 498 Seminar (1) – Presentation by students based on critical evaluations of scientific literature and/or independent research.

Grading criteria:

Attend and provide a critical evaluation of 2 seminars during the semester – One of the best ways to become a better speaker is to attend others' seminars and pick up things that you enjoyed or disliked about the presentation. As part of Chem 498, you will be required to attend 2 seminars throughout the course of the semester and provide a critical evaluation of the presentation. This will include a summary of the seminar topic and evaluation of the scientific content of the talk, quality and clarity of visuals, and the speaker's physical presence during the talk. Seminars on non-chemistry (or even non-science) topics are acceptable, but at least one of the seminars you critique should have a chemistry-related topic.

Literature Search – Your seminar will involve significant literature searching and interaction. There will be at least one literature search/check assignment.

Class Participation – There will be a number of activities and assignments that take place in class beyond those explicitly listed here. You will be evaluated on your participation (both quantity and quality) in these activities.

Topic and Title Presentation – The topic and (tentative) title of your seminar will be presented to the class in January. It is very possible (and probable) that your topic and/or title will change slightly after this initial submission as you tweak your presentation. Your title should be descriptive and interesting, and should not be overly broad. A title like "Polymers" or "Vitamins" is so broad that it really doesn't give the reader an idea of what your seminar is about. You are welcome (but not required) to present your seminar on the topic of your undergraduate research, BUT your work should be no more than about a quarter of your seminar. This will be an *informal* presentation and discussion with the class.

Abstract – Writing a good abstract is not a simple task. A "good" abstract typically contains four parts: 1) a statement of the purpose/problem; 2) a very brief statement of the method/technique used; 3) a brief statement of results; 4) a conclusion or future direction of the experiment. These parts may not be in this order, and sometimes they tend to melt together, but they are almost always present in a good abstract. The abstract and final title for your seminar presentation is due at least 2 weeks before your scheduled seminar.

Seminar presentation – Your seminar presentation will be evaluated by the faculty who attend. Your target audience level should be somewhere around a Chem 350/360 student, although it is always best to include some material that would be accessible to a non-science major. Your seminar will be scheduled in a regular 50-minute class block and is expected to be 40-45 minutes in length with some time available for questions and discussion. Your slides are due (for review) at least 1 week prior to your scheduled seminar time, and you must practice your seminar at least 3 days prior to your scheduled seminar time.

Academic Honesty: Cheating will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of your College and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. It may also be reported to the 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/sthandbook/POLICY/index.htm>}

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."