

Chemistry Seminar – Fall 2021

Item	Detail(s)
Course/Section:	CHEM 489, section 1001, CHEM 491, section 1001, CHEM 791, section 1001
Semester:	Fall, 2021
Times:	Friday – 1:00 – 1:50 (will go to 2:30 in practice)
Class Location:	Remote
Office Location:	SEB 2139 (Meetings will normally be through WebEx)
Office Hours:	Mon., Wed., Fri., 2:00-3:00
Phone:	(702) 895-3753
WebCampus:	https://webcampus.unlv.edu
Email:	Paul.Forster@unlv.edu

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to syllabus as he deems necessary.

Course Objective

This course provides instruction and experience with presenting scientific information.

COVID Considerations

Due to the high transmission of COVID as of September 2021, and because this is a course where speaking by students is an important part of the course, we will be conducting this course remotely. It is hoped that this will also encourage better faculty participation. Meetings will be through WebEx (see Canvas for a link). Initially at least, I would like to hold office hours and other meetings with students virtually.

Canvas Site

Our Webcampus page will include course handouts, links to WebEx meetings, and useful files.

Learning Outcome

At the end of this semester, you will have developed skills for presenting scientific results by means of a logical and well-organized oral seminar or through a poster (CHEM 489 only).

Course Description

All CHEM 491 students and some CHEM 791 students will present a seminar on a chemistry topic to a scientific audience. Presentation dates will be determined after consultation with the class. When not presenting, students are expected to attend other seminars held during regular class periods and provide thoughtful feedback to those students. The duration of each student seminar will be a **maximum of 20 minutes**; there will be an additional five minutes for

discussion. Students may make a presentation on their research (recommended) or on a recent (2015 or later) chemistry-related article from the literature. A dress rehearsal of the talk must be scheduled with the instructor three or more days in advance, and a seminar announcement (title, name, date & time of seminar, abstract, and reference of the paper being presented, if applicable) must be prepared for electronic distribution at least two days prior to the seminar. If a literature paper is being presented, it is not acceptable to use the paper's abstract for the presentation.

For CHEM 489 students, they will be expected to produce and present a poster towards the end of the semester rather than an oral seminar. Students enrolled in this section are still expected to participate in all course activities with the exception of presenting a seminar.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to attend **all** seminars, including Departmental seminars, presented during the regularly scheduled class periods. Prior notification of absence is required. Timely scheduling of a practice talk and submission of an abstract is the responsibility of the presenter; points will be deducted for tardiness. Students are expected to participate in seminar discussions.

Grading

Chemistry 489 grading will be based on following items:

Poster:	70%
Non-Science talk	10%
Attendance and Participation	20%

Chemistry 491/791 grading will be based on following items:

Seminar:	70%
Non-Science talk	10%
Attendance and Participation	20%

Grades will follow the following scale. A handout on the poster or seminar will be provided detailing how grading will be determined. The following scale will be used to determine final letter grades.

A	92.0 – 100	B-	80.0 – 81.9	D	60.0 – 67.9
A-	90.0 – 91.9	C+	78.0 – 79.9	F	0 – 59.9
B+	88.0 – 89.9	C	72.0 – 77.9		
B	82.0 – 87.9	C-	68.0 – 71.9		

Prof. Forster will be available for office hours during the times printed at the top of the syllabus and by appointment. Note that the second floor of the SEB is restricted access – you will need to check in and receive a temporary pass. Sorry! This is out of my control.

Schedule

We will initially meet during our scheduled classtime but will likely not need to meet every week. A schedule will be available as a document on WebCampus and will updated as needed.

Electronic Materials

Materials provided for this course, especially digital files, are intended ONLY for use in taking this course. It is unethical, illegal, and against the student code of conduct to share them, particularly through posting them where others can download them. Materials may be downloaded and used for this course and for later study/review by you only, but should never be shared outside our section. Common examples of unacceptable use of course materials include sharing material from another student's presentation or sharing documents posted by the instructor outside our section. If in doubt, please ask.

UNLV Policies

UNLV has a number of policies that must be part of every syllabus. For this course, they are presented in a separate supplemental document called "Additional Syllabus Items – CHEM SEMINAR" located in the "Course Materials" folder on Canvas. Although these are not printed here to save paper, these policies are part of the syllabus and include **Auditing Classes, Classroom Conduct, the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Final Examinations, Identity Verification in Online Courses, Incomplete Grades, Library Resources, Missed Classwork, Rebelmail, Tutoring and Coaching, UNLV Writing Center, and a Diversity Statement.**

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright

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