

**CHEM 188.01**  
**Freshman Seminar in Chemistry**  
**Fall 2023**

**Dr. Maria V. Schiza**  
[maria.schiza@millersville.edu](mailto:maria.schiza@millersville.edu)  
**Phone: 717-871-7437**  
**Class: Roddy 153**  
**Friday 12:00-12:50 pm**

**Office Hours: Caputo 219**  
**Mon, Wed 9:00-10:30 am**  
**Tue, Fri 9:00-10:00 am**  
(alternate times by appointment)

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**Course Description and Objectives**

This course is intended to give incoming chemistry majors practical information regarding the department, university, and profession. Students are introduced to the chemistry department faculty and campus resources. Students will review course requirements, including general education, to develop an academic plan. Students will consider future career and educational options, explore ethical and societal impacts of chemistry, and present a poster on a chemistry topic.

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**Required Course Materials**

- Chemistry Department Student Handbook (available on Chemistry website)
- Desire to Learn (D2L) Course Access

**Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, students should:

- Be familiar with academic requirements for the major and General Education
- Be familiar with Chemistry faculty, particularly their advisor
- Recognize potential career and educational options within the field of chemistry
- Be able to effectively research, organize and present chemical information
- Be aware of the American Chemical Society and the MU Student Chapter Club
- Be aware of the intersection of chemistry with society at large

**Course Policies**

- ❖ **Attendance:** Class attendance is required according to the University policy. Please contact me as early as possible regarding any situations requiring an absence.
  - ❖ **Participation:** Course projects and the information presented in class are intended to benefit students. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and interact with guest speakers.
  - ❖ **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to complete all course work in an ethical manner without plagiarizing.
  - ❖ **Cooperative Environment:** My primary task is to help familiarize you with the department and university. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or special concerns you have.
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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

### Course Projects

#### ***Why Chemistry? Paper***

Each student will write a short paper reflecting on why you are majoring in chemistry at Millersville. You should describe both what *past* experiences have influenced you as well as what you hope to do with your chemistry degree in the *future*. ***Paper due: Sep 8***

#### ***Resume & Cover Letter***

Chemists should maintain a resume (curriculum vitae – CV is a more extensive document of a chemist's credentials) that describes their academic and professional achievements. This information can be used to apply for an academic position or to develop a resume for a job. A cover letter is used to address the position/job someone applies for specifically. Each student will begin a resume and sample cover letter of their own. ***Resume & Cover Letter due: Oct 6***

#### ***Chemistry in the News***

The broader impact of chemistry on society is significant. Each student will identify a mainstream news article relating to a chemist, a chemical, or a chemical research/process. Additionally, each student is to search for at least 3 related scientific articles/references, using the library resources, that support the original news article. The main news article along with the 3 supporting scientific articles/sources will be summarized in class. ***News Article Topic due: Sep 22; News Article Presentation due: Oct 20***

#### ***Academic Plan***

It can be challenging to coordinate scheduling of all the courses needed to graduate in a timely fashion. Students meet regularly with their assigned advisor in the department to discuss academic choices. Each student will develop an academic plan that incorporates their required courses and identifies areas of interest for general education courses. ***Advisor Signature due: Sep 15; Academic Plan due: Oct 27***

#### ***Chemical Innovations Poster***

Scientific information is often presented in poster format. Students will research and design a poster about a chemist, a chemical, or a chemical process that has significantly impacted the world. Posters should be informative, original, and interesting with non-technical language and colorful visuals. Each poster should include at least 3 related scientific articles/references that have been found using the library resources. A poster session will be held at the end of the semester to display all the posters. ***Topic due: Sep 22; Prelim Draft due: Nov 3; Final Draft due: Nov 17; Completed Poster due: Dec 1***

#### ***Campus Activities***

In addition to academics and activities in the chemistry department, there are many opportunities to engage in the campus community. Each student will write a paragraph describing two campus activities or events they participated in during the semester. ***Campus Activities Summary due: Dec 8***

## Seminar Attendance

Chemistry Department seminars are held Mondays at 4:00 pm in Roddy 149. Each student will attend at least **four** of these seminars. You will be provided with a card, that needs to be signed by one of the chemistry faculty present at those seminars. Students with classes that conflict with the Chemistry Department seminars can fulfill the **Seminar Attendance Card** by attending another scientific seminar or lecture on campus and writing a brief summary (presence at those events can be documented by a photograph taken by the student including themselves and the background). **Seminar Attendance Card due: Dec 8**

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## Course Evaluation

<input type="checkbox"/> Class Attendance/Participation (15 x 2 pts)	30 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Why Chemistry? Paper	10 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Advisor Signature	5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Plan	20 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Resume & Cover Letter	15 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> News Article & Presentation	10 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster Topic	5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster Preliminary Draft	5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster Final Draft	10 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster Presentation	10 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Activities Summary (2 x 5 pts)	10 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar Attendance (4 x 5 pts)	<u>20 pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 pts</b>

## Letter Grade Correlation

<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>	<b>A</b>	93.0-100	<b>A-</b>	90.0-92.9
<b>B+</b>	87.0-89.9	<b>B</b>	83.0-86.9	<b>B-</b>	80.0-82.9
<b>C+</b>	77.0-79.9	<b>C</b>	73.0-76.9	<b>C-</b>	70.0-72.9
<b>D+</b>	67.0-69.9	<b>D</b>	63.0-66.9	<b>D-</b>	60.0-62.9
<b>F</b>	<60.0				

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### **CHEMISTRY PEER LEARNING HOURS - FALL 2023**

#### **Location: Caputo 211**

- Tues. 5 – 7 pm
- Wed. 12-2 pm & 5-7 pm
- Thur. 12-2 pm & 5-7 pm

#### **Stop in and Work on Chemistry!**

No need to make an appointment simply come work on chemistry with your peers and get help from experienced tutors.

**Starting August 29th and continuing through the Fall Semester.**

Contact Dr. Rajaseelan - [Edward.Rajaseelan@millersville.edu](mailto:Edward.Rajaseelan@millersville.edu) with any questions/concerns.

#### ***Title IX Statement***

*Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to comply with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the University's commitment to offering supportive measures in accordance with the new regulations issued under Title IX, the University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. **Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University [Protection of Minors policy](#) sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.***