

CHEM 487.01
Senior Seminar
Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays: 10:45 am – 1:00 pm; CAPUTO 320
Wednesdays: 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm; CAPUTO 320
Thursdays: 10:45 am – 1:00 pm; CAPUTO 320

MEETING TIMES

Mondays 4:00 pm RODDY 149

TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

No textbook is required for this course. Photocopied handouts may be provided when appropriate. Content will be posted on the Desire2Learn course website. It is your responsibility to stay abreast of due dates and posted materials.

COURSE CONTENT

The objectives of the CHEM 487 are to prepare you for your presentation in CHEM 488, and to prepare you for your entry into the professional world. You will attend all departmental seminars and evaluate them using nearly the same criteria that will be used to evaluate you. Additionally, you must choose a topic and prepare a 5-page paper that will form the foundation for your seminar. There are three other minor assignments (vide infra). We will assign spring seminar dates at the end of the fall semester.

COURSE ATTENDANCE

You are required to attend all departmental seminars, Mondays from 4 to 5 pm. To receive credit, you must arrive on time, stay awake, behave in a professional manner during the seminar, and submit an evaluation. We will occasionally meet for a few minutes after the seminar is over.

RESUME WRITING & COVER LETTER

You must create a one-page resume and write a cover letter/statement of purpose. This may be easier if you find a specific job to apply for. Instead of a cover letter, you may write a statement of purpose for a grad school application.

SEMINAR REPORT

A topic and two references are due by the fifth week. A seminar outline is due the tenth week. A first draft of your powerpoint seminar is due on the fourteenth week. Any seminar should be prepared with the target audience in mind. You are speaking primarily to university seniors, and chemical information should be conveyed in depth reasonable for this level of audience. It is helpful it is also conveyed in an interesting manner. If it will be based on your research, consult your research director early.

A literature search is the starting point for any paper or research project. A literature search is not the same as a Google search. Google Scholar, SciFinder Scholar, etc. can be used to find journal articles, but to complete a literature search you must print or photocopy the articles and *read them*. Often the best information is found by following up relevant references within your first batch of articles. Start planning a topic now.

At the end of the semester, you must submit a draft of your seminar presentation along with the power point slides. The powerpoint presentation is not a written report, nor is it a transcription of everything you plan to say when presenting. You must have five references, at least three of which are from refereed print journals. In addition, at least three must be a **primary source** (a journal reference where the authors are reporting *their own work*.) No web references are allowed. You are encouraged to do your seminar on your research; however, you must consult your faculty mentor before embarking upon this task.

Plagiarism will not be allowed. No copy-paste diagrams or figures are allowed. If you want to show a figure, then you must make the figure. The seminar papers will be graded by a department member in the appropriate specialty.

GRADING

We will use a 1000-point scale with the highest possible score being 1000. The penalty for late assignments is 50% of the grade. There will be no exceptions to this policy. The total number of possible points are as follows:

Seminar attendance and evaluation	400
Attendance at resume-writing presentation	75
Resume & cover letter (or CV & purpose statement)	75
Job Fair or Grad Fair attendance	50
Seminar Topic with two references	50
Seminar outline	50
Written seminar paper	200
Powerpoint draft	100
Total	1000 points

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Aug 21 (Mon)	First Day of Classes. https://millersville.zoom.us/j/9090359961
Aug 23 (Wed)	<i>Those applying to Graduate Schools should schedule the GRE</i>
Aug 28 (Mon)	No class meeting
Sept 4 (Mon)	Labor Day Holiday – no meeting
Sept 11 (Mon)	Murley Speakers: Betel Erkalo & Josh Rushlow, Millersville University
Sept 18 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Chenpeng Chen, UMBC
Sept 25 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Yan Kung, Bryn Mawr College
Oct 2 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Sarah Wegryniuk, Temple University
Oct 5 (Thur)	<i>Job & Internship Fair 10:30–2:30 SMC Marauder courts</i>
Oct 9 (Mon)	University holiday – no seminars
Oct 16 (Mon)	Resume/Cover Letter Program Margo Sassaman (Career Services) 4:00 pm Roddy 149
Oct 18 (Wed)	<i>Virtual Job & Internment Fair</i>
Oct 23 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Emil Hernández-Pagán, Univ. of Delaware
Oct 30 (Mon)	No class meeting this week Resume/Coverletter/Statement of Purpose due; Seminar Topic/3 References Due
Nov 1 (Wed)	<i>Virtual Graduate School Fair</i>
Nov 6 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Jillian Weissenrieder, University of Penn. Send Applications for Grad Schools Request References; outline due date
Nov 13 (Mon)	Dept Seminar: Dr. Ellen Hondrogiannis, Towson University
Nov 20 (Mon)	Thanksgiving week – no seminars
Nov 27 (Mon)	No class meeting this week Grad school fair or job fair report due
Dec 4 (Mon)	No class meeting this week Senior Student Seminar; final seminar papers due date
Dec 11 (Mon)	powerpoint slides due date