

Course syllabus for CHEM 8903
Graduate Seminar

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Course summary: Second-year Chemistry & Biochemistry PhD students present a research-based seminar on a topic of interest to an audience of chemists and biochemists.

Registration and logistics: CHEM 8903 meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:05-10:55 am in Boggs building, room B6A. Due to high enrollment, we may require some dates during the spring semester to accommodate all seminars. Thus, CHEM 8903 will be a two-semester course. You should register to audit CHEM 8903 in fall 2007 and register for a letter grade in spring 2008 (regardless of when you will be presenting your seminar). Please contact Dr. Cam Tyson for any issues regarding registration or eligibility for taking this course.

10:00-10:05 Speaker set up

10:05-10:45 Presentation (40 minutes)

10:45-10:55 Questions and answers and completion of written evaluations by audience and instructor

Attendance and grading: You must attend a minimum of 75% of the seminars. Lateness of more than 5 minutes (i.e., 10:10 am or later) will count as absence. Penalties for failing to meet the 75% attendance policy are:

- deduction of one letter grade for attending 65-74% of seminars (over both semesters)
- deduction of two letter grades for attending < 65% of seminars (over both semesters)

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

90% seminar grade (see Seminar Evaluation Form for breakdown of essential elements)

5% seminar topic submission form and references

5% for asking at least 2 questions following other students' seminars (over both semesters)

MINUS penalty for absenteeism

Letter grades of A and B are passing grades for this required course. Student who earn a final grade of C or lower are required to repeat the course with a passing grade in order to satisfy the PhD degree requirement.

Scheduling of seminars: A preliminary schedule will be emailed to all second year PhD students by June 15th. The order of speakers will be based in part on completion of the literature exams.

If you have an unavoidable conflict with your scheduled date, you can switch your date with another student and notify Dr. Kubanek and your research advisor of the schedule change – please do this before August 15th. A final schedule will be issued on the first day of class. Changes made to your seminar date after August 15th will require permission of Dr. Kubanek.

If your research advisor has an unavoidable conflict and cannot attend your seminar, please find another senior member of your research group to attend and introduce you. Students will present their seminar even if no members of their research group can attend, but please let Dr. Kubanek know of this situation at least one class day before your seminar.

Seminar topic selection: You must complete the Seminar Topic Submission Form by August 1st (or, by July 15th if your seminar is scheduled for August) and email this information to Dr. Kubanek for approval. If Dr. Kubanek thinks that the topic is too close to your thesis research or inappropriate for a general audience of chemists and biochemists, she will let you know by August 8th, and if you request, she can work with you to adjust your topic.

If you want to make changes to your seminar title or topic after submission, please email Dr. Kubanek with your request and reason for the change. A minor change to your title is common and usually acceptable; however changes to the reference list or general topic are discouraged.

Since the graduate seminar is intended to give students an opportunity to demonstrate breadth of knowledge in chemistry/biochemistry, to learn to critically analyze a body of research, to teach your peers about an important topic in their field, and to practice development of oral communication and presentation skills, each seminar should cover important, high-quality, recent progress in an area of chemistry and/or biochemistry.

Requirements for the seminar topic:

- cutting-edge and contemporary research (within the last 5 years)
- NOT related to your graduate research
- NOT work done at Georgia Tech
- NOT work done in your previous undergraduate or graduate research groups

Selection of references for your seminar topic: You should base your seminar on research described in 2-3 primary research articles (not reviews). However, you will need to read many more papers (including reviews and work by other authors) in order to prepare your topic and place your presentation in the context of important discovery to a general audience of chemists and biochemists. Remember to cite these papers during your seminar presentation.

Office hours: By appointment. Please email or consult with instructor during class to set up a time.

Please see www.honor.gatech.edu for Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, which you are required to uphold.