

Chemical Literature

Chemistry 6530

Credit: 3 semester hours

No text

Prerequisites: graduate standing

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Course Description:

Modern methods and procedures for effective searching of the chemical, scientific, and technical literature are covered. Students will access library resources, interlibrary loans, computer-searchable databases, internet and CD-ROM technology for data retrieval, and access to non-English language resources. Projects demonstrating proficiency will be required.

Course Overview:

Students will learn how to search the chemical literature with the goal of understanding how to bring together information from varied and multiple sources to provide a sufficient background of information on a particular chemical topic. Written assignments will include summaries of information gathered and appropriate ways to cite references.

The class meets for once each week for two to three hours during a regular semester. Occasionally the class will meet in the library, especially early in the semester.

Rationale:

Science always builds upon previous results. In order to make worthy contributions to science, one must know what work has been previously done, what conclusions have been drawn, and what additional questions have been asked. Thus, any legitimate research project should always begin with a search of the literature. However, simply finding previous work is not sufficient. A scientist must read, understand, and synthesize previous work into a cohesive summary to provide a sound foundation on which to build the next contribution.

Grading:

Grades are based on written summaries and reports with appropriately cited references, class attendance, and participation. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Graduate Catalog* for a discussion of the university's graduate grading system and how grade points are assigned.

Attendance:

Your attendance at all class meetings is expected. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Graduate Catalog* for a discussion of the university's attendance policy.

Academic integrity:

Mississippi College students are expected to be honest. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Graduate Catalog* for a discussion of plagiarism and cheating. Also refer to the *Mississippi College Tomahawk* or to University Policy 2.19.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Learn how to search the scientific literature.
- 2) Learn how to obtain information from other libraries.
- 3) Learn how to cite references using the *American Chemical Society Style Guide*.
- 4) Learn how to summarize information from varied and multiple sources to provide a sufficient background of information on a particular chemical topic.