

Graduate Chemistry Seminar

Chemistry 6531

Credit: 1 semester hour

No text

Prerequisites: graduate standing

The course must be taken a minimum of three times by graduate students to fulfill the requirements for a Masters of Science in Chemistry.

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Course Description:

The course is designed to provide experience for students in oral communication and in exploration of the scientific literature. Written summaries of seminars by professionals will also be required. This course must be taken three times to satisfy the M.S. degree requirement.

Course Overview:

Students will learn how to read the chemical literature with the goal of understanding new information well enough to present it in a semi-formal setting to their professors and graduate student peers. Students will also gain experience in listening to formal seminars given by professional chemists and in writing summaries of these presentations.

The class meets for one hour a week during a regular semester; attendance is mandatory. Early in the semester, students will be shown how to use library resources to locate chemical information. Occasionally, a guest speaker will be invited to deliver a seminar. If possible, these guest lectures will be given at the normal seminar class time. However, this is not always possible, so flexibility with scheduling is necessary.

Rationale:

The primary modes of dissemination of new scientific information is through peer-reviewed journal articles and seminars. For any chemist to participate actively in chemical research, he or she must be able to read the chemical literature, listen to seminars given by other chemists, and present seminars on his or her own work or the research of others.

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.

Grading:

Grades are based on oral presentations, written summaries, class attendance, and participation. Each student will be required to submit summaries of four seminars given by chemistry professionals. Each summary will be worth 10% of the class grade. If possible, at least four guest speakers will be invited to speak at MC during the semester. If less than four guest seminars occur or if a student misses one of the guest speakers, students can attend Chemistry seminars at JSU or Biochemistry seminars at UMMC to fulfill the four seminar requirement. The majority of the class grade (55%) will come from the final seminar given by each student and the corresponding written assignment that accompanies this seminar. This overall assignment is described in detail below. The remainder of the class grade (5%) comes from 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.

Final Seminar Assignment:

Once the final seminar topic has been chosen, students will gather resources: primarily journal articles and occasionally books or book chapters. The written assignment from this research will comprise three parts. The first part is a three to four page summary of the topic. The second part is a reference list of all sources found and used for the summary and the final seminar. A minimum of seven sources are required, and each should include how the source was found (SciFinder, Academic Search Premier, reference list within another reference, etc.). The *ACS Style Guide* should be used for formatting. The last part is an annotated bibliography of the four most important sources used. This written assignment is due the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday. Final seminars will be given during the last two class meetings of the semester. They should be between 12 and 15 minutes in length, and a PowerPoint Presentation should be used.

Important Dates:

The ACS Fall Picnic is Thursday, September 5th.

Fall Break is October 7th and 8th.

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is October 20th through October 26th. This is the 26th year of NCW, and the theme is Energy: Now and Forever!

The last day to drop a class is Friday, October 25th.

Homecoming is October 26th.

The Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS is in Atlanta, November 13th - 16th.

Thanksgiving Holidays are November 27th through December 1st.