

# Junior Seminar

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**Office hours:** M 1:00-3:00, TTh 9:20-10:45, AND by appointment

**Class times:** MWF 8:00-8:50 in Smith 312B (NSE Conference room)

**Texts:** *A short guide to writing about chemistry, 2nd ed.* by Beall & Trimbur (Addison Wesley Longman, 2001)



**Course Description:** Junior Seminar is the precursor to Senior Seminar and was developed to increase students' chemical literacy, as well as give practice at articulating scientific principles to an audience and write in a coherent manner on a chemical topic. Students should have completed organic I, and be enrolled or in, or have taken, quantitative analysis and organic II.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the semester, the successful CHM 397 student will be able to

- intelligently search various scientific databases
- read, understand, and orally articulate the main focus behind a research article
- critique oral presentations
- consider ethics, as it applies to the chemical sciences

## Student Accountability

**Academic Honor Code:** Section II.B. Cheating. Though a nearly ubiquitous problem on college campuses around the country, cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Please pay particular attention to all parts in the student handbook. Students found to be cheating will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate sanctions. This action could result in the expulsion from class with a failing grade.

**Class Disruptions:** Disruptive talking or disruptive behavior in class is against university policy and could be subject to penalty. Please be courteous to other students' desire to learn.

**Attendance:** Because CHM 397 is only offered for one credit hour, class may not meet for all sessions per week—these dates will be made clear in advance. You are expected to attend classes in which there is an outside speaker or an in-class presentation and in cases of special activities (library workshops). Additionally, you may be required to occasionally attend a biology senior seminar to see what is expected from a senior-level presentation. You will also need to attend lectures outside of normal class times (see below).

**Attending outside lectures:** Throughout the semester, you will be required to attend at least TWO lectures related to the chemical sciences. This can be done by going to monthly ACS meetings (see syllabus for date and location) or attending other, approved seminars. You will need to write a summary of the talk (typed, 1-2 pages). The deadline for submission of these summaries is one week after you attend the presentation.

**Journal Club:** During the semester, students will present a short research article (not a review article) to the rest of the class. The paper on which you will present must be approved ONE WEEK (7 days) prior to your presentation. For each 24 hour period that it has late approval, the grade for the journal club will be lowered by 5 %. Note that approval of the paper is not to act as a barrier, but is really set up to help you avoid pitfalls in especially difficult articles. Students NOT presenting will be expected to have read the article, pay attention during the talk, and highlight things the speaker did effectively and areas that may need some work. The point of this is to offer constructive criticism, NOT to berate your peers.

**Written report:** As a requirement for this class, two short papers will be written, using ACS guidelines, on the topics of your choosing (but the topics must have teacher approval). You will use at least three pieces of primary research (peer reviewed articles), but other sources may also be used. The first paper will be due on **March 22** and the second paper will be due on **the last day of class, April 26**. Topics for these papers must be approved by **February 22 and April 5th**, respectively. Turning in a report late will result in a 5 point reduction on your paper for each 24 hour period. More guidelines will be forthcoming.

**Grades:** Points will be distributed as follows:

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Off-campus summaries               | 15% |
| Written reports                    | 35% |
| Journal Club presentation          | 20% |
| Summaries from class presentations | 10% |
| Homework/in-class assignments      | 20% |

The grading scale is as follows:

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| A    | 90-100      |
| B+/B | 87-89/80-86 |
| C+/C | 77-79/70-76 |
| D+/D | 67-69/60-66 |
| F    | ≤59         |

**Important University-wide Dates:**

January 11 (Monday)—Classes Start

January 18 (Monday)—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no classes)

March 8-12 (Monday-Friday)—Spring Break (no classes)

March 29 (Monday)—Last day to withdraw from class without academic penalty

April 26 (Monday)—Last day of classes (classes ARE held); final papers are due

**Students with disabilities should notify me of special needs during the first day of class.**

In keeping with University policy, any student with a disability who requests academic accommodations should contact Disability Services at 503-5199 to arrange a confidential appointment with the Disability Services Coordinator. Students are encouraged to seek an appointment as early in the semester as possible, as accommodations are not provided retroactively. Letters of accommodation must be signed and printed on letterhead from the Disability Services office. It is the student's responsibility to provide these letters to professors in a timely manner so that accommodations may be put in place

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments in this syllabus as necessary.