Senior Seminar, Spring, 2016

CHEM 465-010, 1:25 – 2:15 W, 116 BRL

CHEM 465-011, 2:30 – 3:20 W, 116 BRL

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**Senior seminar will meet on the first Wednesday of the semester, 2/10/16**, for a general introduction and to establish the schedule of talks. The course is intended for CHEM/BIOC seniors who will graduate in 2016.

One of the goals of the undergraduate chemistry/biochemistry program is to prepare students to give technical oral presentations. {10} Another goal is to critically\* evaluate methodologies, data and conclusions of other’s technical work. {4}

One of the goals in the UDEL Path to Prominence involved “Initiatives for the Planet”: path breaking environmental research and becoming the Green University. Our connection to these goals is chemistry applied to environmental problems.

UDEL Path to Prominence: <http://www.udel.edu/prominence/index.html>

UDEL Research Magazine on the Environment: <http://www.udel.edu/researchmagazine/issue/vol2_no1_enviro/president.html>

UDEL Environmental Portal: <http://www.environmentalportal.udel.edu>

Delaware Environmental Institute: <http://denin.udel.edu>

There are more than 500 electronic journals listed on the UD Library site under the topic of Environmental Science.

The central theme for the talks in CHEM 465 this spring will be chemistry applied to environmental problems. Each student will present a talk on some application of chemistry to an environmental problem: air, water, soil, remediation, green chemistry, recycling, major environmental disasters {anthropogenic and natural - historical as well as recent}, or others {with some general discussion with me about the topic}. In addition, you will complete a brief evaluation of talks by some of your colleagues.

Although course is graded as P/F, it is not a P/P course. Attendance and participation in the discussions are required. Except for **real** emergencies, proposed absences should be discussed with me in advance. Interviews – job, graduate school, medical school, *etc* – are acceptable reasons for absences – BUT don’t schedule all of your interviews on Wednesday afternoons.

Power Point presentations are standard now. A departmental computer {PC or Mac,with Power Point} **will be available for the seminars on Wednesdays, if you let me know in** **advance.** However, it will be easier if you bring your laptop. When you are giving a talk, you must come to class 5 - 10 minutes early to check the equipment set up – a standard procedure for technical talks at meetings.

**Each talk is to last 10 - 12minutes**. Presentations at technical meetings (or company meetings) are restricted in time. A 5 minute talk is embarrassingly short; a 20 minute talk may be terminated before completion. **Practice and time your talk**. The talks should be planned for a technically literate audience, but not for specialists in the area, and should be aimed at the level of Scientific American. {Read some articles for reference.}. You are not required to take or defend a position. No polemics. You are discussing the science. Give appropriate citations to journal articles. The talks are “reasonably” formal: no shorts or sandals.

There will be a student discussion leader at each presentation to introduce the speaker (with brief biographical information), to ask the first question after the presentation, and to guide (or control) the discussion. About 3 minutes will be allowed, and encouraged, for discussion. Four students will evaluate/assess talks each week, using a general rubric – available on the Sakai site for the course. {Speakers: consider this rubric when you plan your talk.}

There will be two or three talks per week. The speakers and their topics, the discussion leaders, and assessors will be posted on the Sakai site in advance and revised during the semester as needed.

**Send an electronic copy of your slides to your discussion leader by 5 pm on the Monday before your talk on Wednesday.** You may rearrange, add, or subtract slides between Monday and Wednesday, but the main part of your talk should be in the slides available on Monday. These slides will allow the discussion leader to prepare questions.

**Each speaker will also send an electronic copy of the slides for the presentation to (**[**bmunson@udel.edu**](mailto:bmunson@udel.edu)**)** **at the same time that the slides are sent to the discussion leader**. With promptness on your part and some luck, I will post the slides on the Sakai site for CHEM 465 for your colleagues to view before your talk. Discussion is strongly encouraged and helped by preparation – some familiarity with the topic.

Bring your talk on a USB (flash, whatever) drive or your computer. There will be some help for setup at the beginning of class. {Do not count on me for help with the technical aspects of your presentation.}

Now to the reactionary part: instantaneous communication with everyone **may** be important (please note the reactionary conditional verb) but is not essential. This circumlocution means

**DO NOT BRING YOUR LAPTOP COMPUTER TO SENIOR SEMINAR UNLESS YOU ARE GIVING A TALK.**

**TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE WHEN YOU COME TO SEMINAR AND DO NOT CHECK ON ANYTHING DURING SEMINAR. SHOULD THE WORLD END DURING SEMINAR, THERE IS LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO.**

**DO NOT BRING OTHER WORK TO SEMINAR.**

**PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TO THE SPEAKERS AND PAY ATTENTION TO THE TALKS. TRY TO FORMULATE AN APPROPRIATE QUESTION.**

You will discover that you appreciate a question from someone after a talk, indicating that the person actually listened to your talk.

\* Infinitive split in Department Learning Goals