Research Presentation Techniques  
Chemistry 691 Overview and Schedule ---- Spring 2010

Instructor        Dr. William Simpson (NSF 186, IARC 335, 474-7235, 474-2436  
wrsimpson@alaska.edu)
Office Hours      M, W, F 11:30 – 12:30, REIC 186
Meeting time      3:30 - 5:00PM Monday, REIC 165

Course Description (from catalog)

Review of recent research in chemistry to expose students to recent findings, methodologies and  
concepts in a broad range of chemistry and related disciplines. How to present and defend  
research proposals. Course may be repeated for credit. Special fees apply. Prerequisites:  
Graduate standing in physical sciences or permission of instructor. (1+0)

Course Overview:  

Chemistry 691 is designed to give graduate students practice in oral presentation techniques that  
include presentation of their research and defense of research proposals / scientific ideas. These  
skills are critical for success of our graduate students. For students who seek employment in  
industry, these skills will assist in successful interviewing and interaction with colleagues once  
employed. For academic-bound students, these skills are critical to their job placement and  
performance.

Learning Outcomes:  

At the end of the course, you should have the skills to successfully present and defend a thesis.

Course Structure:  

The course will meet weekly for a 90-minute session. The instruction begins with lectures on  
oral presentation skills by the instructor, followed by student presentations and defense. Each  
student will:

1) Make a research presentation, either taken from their research or from the literature.

2) Defend their research presentation in the style of an oral defense of a M.S. thesis or a Ph.D.  
oral comprehensive, depending on the student’s program.

3) Ask questions of the other students in their presentations.

In addition to the student presentations, the lecture may be given by faculty members or others  
interested in chemistry. In the case of an external speaker, the students must still participate by  
asking questions of the speaker.

Students with disabilities
Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services in the Center for Health and Counseling, 474-7043, TTY 474-7045.

**Grading:**

Research presentation (40%), Quality of questions asked of other presenters (25%), Defense of research presentation (25%), Participation (10%). The grading scale will be A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%. We will not be using +/- grading in this course.

**Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and planning of student schedules</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>1 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation skills and their importance</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>8 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student Introductions (10+5 min each)</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>15 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Example Presentation</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>22 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Example Oral Defense</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>1 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Spring break – no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Research presentation 1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>15 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>22 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Research presentation 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>29 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>5 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Research presentation 3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>12 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>19 Apr</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Research presentation 4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>26 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research presentation 4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discussion on lessons learned and course improvement</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>10 May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Important dates:

Last day for 100% refund of tuition and fees ........................................... Friday, 29 Jan
Last day for student-initiated and faculty-initiated drops ............................ Friday, 5 Feb
Last day for 50% refund of tuition (tuition only, no fees refunded) ............. Friday, 5 Feb
Spring break (no classes) .............................................................................. Mon.-Fri. Mar. 8-12
Last day for withdrawals (W appears on academic record) ..................... Friday, 26 Mar
Last day of instruction (UAF wide) ............................................................... Monday, 10 May
Final Examination time .............................................................................. 3:15 - 5:15 p.m. Monday, 10 May