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   W, F 2:30 – 3:30, REIC 186
Meeting time   3:30 - 5:00PM Wednesday, REIC 165

Course Description (from catalog)
Review of recent research in chemistry to expose students to recent findings, methodologies and
corcepts 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 / formulate questions of the other students / speakers in their presentations.

In the case that our course does not meet during a week, students must attend the Chemistry
Department Seminar (Chem 692). The students will write 2-3 questions that they would ask the
speaker and hand that in to Professor Simpson.
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 / written questions of seminar speakers (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 (Tuesday meetings in bold):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>2 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation skills and their importance</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>9 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Example Presentation / Example Oral Defense</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>16 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-- Attend Chem Seminar --</td>
<td>Shepson</td>
<td>22 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Questioning / Oral defense of research</td>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>16 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>presentation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Present or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>29 or 30 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Defend or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>5 or 6 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Present or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>12 or 13 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Defend or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>19 or 20 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Present or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>26 or 27 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Defend or Attend Chem Seminar</td>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>3 or 4 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important dates:

28 Jan 11 (Fr) Last day for 100% refund of fees and tuition
4 Feb 11 (Fr) Last day to drop class (without W on transcript), 50% tuition refund
8 Mar 11 (Tu) Midterm exam (in class)
14-18 Mar 11 (Mo – Fr) Spring Break
25 Mar 11 (Fr) Last day to withdraw from class (with W on transcript)
6 May 11 (Fr) End of Instruction (overall UAF)