

Synthesis Seminar Chem615 section004 (Fall 2015)
Meetings 4:00-5:00 pm in LaTourette 300
Candidacy Exams and Defenses will begin at 3:00 pm
Seminar Facilitator: Dr. Timothy J. Hagen
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Schedule

The Synthesis Division Seminar schedule will be posted on the Departmental Bulletin Board across from the mailroom in Faraday Hall.

Departmental Colloquium: The schedule is available on the Departmental website:
<http://www.chembio.niu.edu/chembio/colloquium/index.shtml>

Class Format and Policies: The Synthesis Division seminars that are held on Wednesday. Attendance of seminars is required and point deductions will be made for each seminar missed. Participation is strongly encouraged and will be evaluated by questions asked by participants during the Q&A portion of seminars.

Course overview (modified from the Fall 2015 Chem 615-3 syllabus prepared by Prof. Hofstetter):

1. The date for each student's presentation is decided by the student, advisor and instructor at the first organizational meeting.
2. Each student past the 1st semester will participate in presenting (one presentation on a literature topic, the other on a thesis/dissertation research). First semester students participate only by observation and discussion. The literature topic must be original; you cannot reuse material which you presented elsewhere. The literature/research topics rotate on a semester basis. The length of the literature topic presentation should not exceed 30 minutes. This time must also allow for discussion. It is good to practice the presentation. Candidacy and thesis presentation will typically require more time and enough time should be allocated after consulting with the research advisor (for candidacy and defense, make sure the seminar room is reserved for you at least for another additional hour). If your presentation requires attendance of your committee members, make sure as a courtesy, that they are apprised of the date ahead of time.
3. The literature subject chosen by the student should be from the recent literature (i.e., within the last year). The seminar should be based on a recent original article. However, a recent review article may be a good way to find an interesting paper and learn useful background information. In some cases a "classic" literature article from a particular field may be of interest (please feel free to consult with your research advisor). Additional references should be consulted in the seminar preparation to help give the audience a proper introduction to the topic. These references must be studied and understood by the student. To broaden the group's scientific knowledge, it is strongly encouraged to find a literature topic outside of the student's research. Please feel free to consult with the instructor.
4. The research talks will be typically prepared in consultation with the research advisor.
5. The student is free to consult with the instructor or research advisor regarding the suitability of the topic and the chosen article for the literature presentation.
6. The Friday before the seminar, the student must post an abstract (in the Organic chemistry section of the bulletin board outside the mail room) and email the abstract to the Fall 2015 CHEM 615 - 4 Chemistry Seminar group using Blackboard (Tools-Send Email-all users). This abstract is to be written in your own words (i.e., not the article's abstract). Students will be required to give a presentation on literature or research updates during the Wednesday afternoon session.

Grading: The seminar carries a letter grade evaluation (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F). Participation is essential to the seminar, presence of all is required. If for some reason you will be unable to attend a seminar, please notify the instructor in advance. Failure to attend more than two unexcused seminars will result in a decrease in the letter grade (A→A-). Each additional unexcused absence will result in an additional drop for each absence.

Presentation Rubric: To provide better feedback to presenters, the instructor will fill out a presentation rubric. While this does not factor in to your grade in the course, it will provide an opportunity for discussion with the instructor to improve presentation skills. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss your presentation. The presentation rubrics can be found at http://www.chembio.niu.edu/chembio/programs_graduate/forms/oralpresentation.shtml

Supplementary Material: "Seminar on Seminars" by Profesor Suslick at the University of Illinois. <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/suslick/seminars.html>

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Material presented during seminars must be original and/or appropriately referenced. ***Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct and as such, it can result in failure of the entire course.***

Common Sense Conduct: No cell phones, pagers, ipods or similar electronic devices allowed. All cell phones may be put in silent/vibrate mode and left on for emergency alerts only. Please refrain from talking, texting, etc. during seminars