

University of Rhode Island; Department of Chemistry
CHM 492: Seminar in Chemistry
Spring 2022; M 2:00-5:00pm, Beapre 105

Course Instructor	Prof. Kiesewetter 325F Beapre mkiesewetter@uri.edu
Office Hours	by appointment
Course Goals and Outcomes	The single most important skill a scientist can learn is to communicate science effectively. The 'real world' of communicating science involves speaking to general and specialized audiences. Identifying an audience and constructing an appropriate talk is a skill that evolves over a lifetime. By asking students to critically consider their own and others' presentations, this course will prepare students to assemble and deliver a clear and concise presentation.
Course Policies	Evaluations are directly related to presentations made during class, and attendance is required. There are no makeups. Expectations for presentations and evaluations are detailed below. All graded work should be performed individually. Cheating or plagiarism on a graded assignment will result in a zero for that evaluation and possible referral to the Dean and failure of the course. Students are expected to follow the University policy of ACADEMIC HONESTY and all other University policies.
COVID-19	Facemasks will be required for the duration of the course. If a student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should not come to class, report to Health Services and get a COVID test. Students who miss a graded opportunity as a result of a positive COVID test will receive an alternative assignment. Online classes may be required in unusual circumstances or if the University shifts to remote instruction.
Grading	Student grades will be based on attendance (100 points) and evaluations (100 points) of the Department of Chemistry Seminars (M 3pm, Beapre 105) and their own scientific presentations (100 points). Final grades will be determined by a scale no stricter than >90% A, >80% B, >70% C, >60% D. Students may request a re-grade on any evaluation for up to 1 week from when the evaluations are returned.

Seminar Attendance (100 pts total)

You must be physically and intellectually present for seminar. Each seminar is worth 20 points.

Presentation Evaluations (100 pts total)

The goal is to critically and succinctly evaluate presentations made during Departmental Seminars. Students will be asked to identify strengths and weaknesses of the presentations and provide brief summaries.

For each presentation, respond to the [google form doc](#). You will be asked:

- 1) Give the name of the speaker and where they are from.
- 2) Identify one scientific fact that you learned from the talk and/or how you can apply some piece of information from the presentation to your own research.
- 3) Identify one strength of the presentation. These can include: talk format, slide format, use of specific figures/organization, something distinct about the presentation that you liked, etc.
- 4) Identify one weakness of the presentation culling from the same source material as above.

Use actionable points. Example actionable point: "The speaker could have better made his point about the rate of polymerization with data vs a bulleted list of text." Example of non-actionable point: "Speaker's voice was annoying."

Evaluations are due by Friday at noon following the seminar. Assignments will be graded on an all/half/no credit basis; correct use of grammar and following guidelines counts. Each evaluation will be graded out of 20 points. You must attend the seminar in person to complete these assignments.

Scientific Presentation (100 pts)

Every student will be responsible for delivering a scientific presentation on a topic of their choosing; you are encouraged to present on a topic relevant to your research. This should not be a seminar of your research accomplishments but rather a review-type presentation on an approved topic. All topics must be approved by the instructor on or before February 28. Presentations will take place on 4/18, 4/25 and 5/2.

CHM 492 Presentation Evaluation Rubric
(NOTE: We will use [google forms](#) for evaluations.
This document is for planning purposes.)

Presenter:

Evaluator:

Presentation evaluation criteria:

1. _____ Presentation Abstract (10 points): An abstract is prepared for the presentation. The abstract clearly previews the contents of the presentation, is clear, uses correct grammar, contains scientific content and a figure, if applicable. Abstract is due the Friday before your presentation by 5pm.
2. _____ Timing (10 points): Presentation plus discussion should be 20-25 minutes total. A thought provoking presentation will require about 5 minutes for questions/discussion.
3. _____ Slides (20 points): Slides are prepared in Powerpoint (or similar), are properly cited, follow the points of style discussed in this course and your own evaluations. Use of figures is appropriate (no unused figures, no 'missing' figures). The presentation is constructed appropriately (e.g. logical organization).
4. _____ Scientific Content (20 points): Student demonstrates mastery of their topic through presentation and discussion. Student should be able to discuss the topic and field reasonable questions.
5. _____ Professionalism, Delivery and Impressions (20 points): Student treats this like a professional talk. If in doubt, treat this like a job interview. Have you included the points of style discussed in this course and your assignments?
6. _____ Evaluation (20 points): You should provide actionable critique of your peer's presentations. Use the grading rubric to evaluate all of your peers.