

Senior Seminar Spring, 2012
CHEM 465-010, 1:25 – 2:15 W, 219 BRL
CHEM 465-011, 2:30 – 3:20 W, 219 BRL

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The senior seminar will meet on the first Wednesday of the semester, 2/08/12,
for a general introduction and to establish the schedule of talks.

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 involves "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 518 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 Munson before the presentations}. 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 Munson 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, with Power Point} will be available for the seminars on Wednesdays. Bring your laptop if you wish, otherwise bring a copy of your talk on a flash drive. Mac users: bring your own laptop.

Each talk is to last 10 - 12minutes. Presentations at technical meetings (or company meetings) are restricted in time – on either end. Practice and time your talk. The talks should be planned for a technically literate audience, but not for specialists in your area and aimed at the level of Scientific American. {Read some articles for reference.}. You are not required to take or defend a position. You are discussing the science. Give appropriate citations to journal articles.

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, or encouraged, for discussion. Four students will evaluate/assess one talk each week, using a general rubric – available on the Sakai site for the course.

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 Munson (munson@udel.edu) at the same time that the slides are sent to the discussion leader. With luck Munson will post the slides on the Sakai site for CHEM 465 for your colleagues. 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. {Do not count on Munson for help with the technical aspects of your presentation. There are several pungent phrases that remind you about this impossibility.}

* Infinitive split in Department Learning Goals