

Syllabus for Chemistry 4940 *Spring 2015*

Description

This course is designed to acquaint undergraduates with some of the current research in the field of chemistry, through attendance at the Chemistry Department's weekly seminars from 3:30 – 4:30 PM on Friday afternoons. The speakers at these seminars are usually faculty from other universities or research scientists from industry or national laboratories, who have achieved a national or international reputation for their research in chemistry.

Requirements

Undergraduates who are enrolled in this course are required to attend the Chemistry Department's Seminars every Friday at 3:30 PM. Attendance will be taken, and students with more than one unexcused absence are unlikely to receive a passing grade in this course.

There are three primary types of assignments in the course.

(1) “Ask a question” – At most seminars, question sheets will be available. Be sure that you obtain a sheet. Write down a question that you would like to ask the speaker that is relevant to his/her talk and turn in your question immediately after the speaker provides his or her presentation, but prior to the question and discussion period. You are expected to turn in a relevant question.

(2) “Participation – extra time” – Occasionally, the seminar speaker or discussion session that follows the talk may run an additional 15-20 minutes. As part of your assignment for the course, your “homework” is to participate in this period. This time presents a useful opportunity for learning, and full attention and participation is expected during this period. If you must leave at 4:30 p.m. on these occasions, then let the instructor know in advance and an alternative assignment can be provided to you.

Please also note that leaving before the discussion session is over is disruptive.

(3) “Participation” – This course introduces you to a wide variety of research and career opportunities in chemistry. In the past, students have said that the seminar programs help them not only know more about the field, but also to better appreciate and understand what areas interest them and what areas might be of more interest to their classmates. Thus, active listening of the speakers is expected. Cell phones, laptops, homework, reading material, and any other activity that prevents you and/or those around you from fully focusing on the speaker are not permitted during the seminar.

Meet the Speakers

You are encouraged to meet the various speakers throughout the semester. This is a great chance to resolve any scientific questions that you may have, learn more about the speaker's research or career pathway, or find out more about career opportunities or graduate schools (from those speakers coming from universities). Dr. Wilson or the speaker's host would be glad to introduce you either before the seminar or after the discussion session. Definitely take the time to build your scientific network.

Class dates

The class will not meet the first week of the semester, nor Friday, March 13, which immediately precedes Spring break.

Not a Requirement

On the posted seminar schedule, there will be a Graduate Student Seminar Day, a day when each third-year graduate students will present a research talk. While you are invited to these seminars, attendance is not required for this undergraduate course.

Instructor, Contact Information, and Office Hours

Dr. Angela Wilson, CHEM 205C, (940) 565-4296, akwilson@unt.edu

Office hours are Fridays, 12-3 p.m., and by arrangement.