

## Chemistry 481: Chemistry Seminar Fall Semester

**Instructor:** Lawrence K. Duffy  
**Office:** WRRB 246  
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**Email:** lkduffy@alaska.edu  
**Class Time:** TR 4:00 - 5:00, REIC  
**Office Hours:** TR 5:00 - 6:00 PM, or by appointment

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**Prerequisites:** Comm 131 or Comm 141

**Required Text book:** Available electronically from UAF Library.  
The Craft of Scientific Presentations, 2nd Edition  
Michael Alley  
Springer-Verlag, New York  
Publication Date: 2013

### Course Description

This is the first in a two-semester sequence in oral communication required for the B.S. degree in Chemistry. Together, these two courses provide an introduction to the techniques and style of technical oral presentation generally accepted by professional chemists. Class will meet two hours per week, the first hour is open session, and the second is closed session. Chem 481 students are required to attend all of the public seminars (Tuesdays, sometimes Thursdays) and participate in critiquing presentations by graduate students, chemistry faculty, and their peers during the Thursday session. Note: The oral communication intensive credit is earned upon successful completion of both CHEM F481 and Chem482.

### Course Goals:

Develop an overall understanding of the principles of oral communication in science including accepted presentation techniques, listening skills, critical analysis of scientific presentations, participation in scientific discussions and introduction of speakers and invited guests.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an ability to listen to a scientific presentation and to ask pertinent questions regarding the material presented.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research presented in a peer-reviewed article and to answer questions posed by the audience on this research at the end of the presentation.
3. Actively participate in a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of a speaker's presentation and/or the scientific merit of the research presented
4. Provide clear concise written critiques of research and/or journal presentations with respect to presentation style, multimedia and content.
5. Demonstrate the ability to introduce a seminar speaker in a professional and appropriate manner as described by the course directors.

### Instructional Methods:

Chem 481 students are required to attend all class sessions and participation in all class activities. Students will be expected to listen to all presentations during the Tuesday public seminar sessions and to

ask relevant and probing questions during the question/answer period. In addition detailed, written critiques of all presentations will be required and all Chem 481 students will be expected to attend and participate in the discussion of these critiques during the Thursday closed session.

To provide some public speaking experience in Chem 481, students will be required to write and deliver a public introduction for seminar speakers at least once during the semester and to participate in any public speaking exercises conducted during the semester.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance:**

Due to the dependence on participation, students are expected to attend all class sessions.

**Exams:** There will be no examinations in this course. Grading will be based on attendance, quality of participation and quality of written critiques.

**Plagiarism Policy:** Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's intellectual property without permission. The semester final will be a take-home exam.

**Veteran Support Services:**

Walter Crary is the Veterans Service Officer at the Veterans Resource Center, 111 Eielson Building. 474-2475. ([weccrary@alaska.edu](mailto:weccrary@alaska.edu)) Fairbanks Vet Center 456-4238. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Ft. Wainwright is 361-6370.

**Amending This Syllabus:**

Amendments and changes to the syllabus, including evaluation and grading mechanisms, are possible. The instructor must initiate any changes. Changes to the grading and evaluation scheme can be made before the add/drop date without a vote, but after that date must be voted on by the entire class and approved only with unanimous vote of all students present in class on the day the issue is decided. The lecture schedule and reading assignments (Daily Schedule) will not require a vote and may be altered at the instructor's discretion. The Daily Schedule can be found on Blackboard. Grading changes that unilaterally and equitably improve all students' grades will not require a vote. Once approved, amendments will be distributed in writing to all students via Blackboard.

## **UAF POLICIES**

**HONOR CODE:** Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to the UAF academic honor code as detailed in the UAF Catalog.

**DISABILITIES:** The Instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Students with a physical or learning disability need to identify themselves to ODS in order to request special accommodations. Documentation needs to be provided by the student to ODS, which will notify the instructor of special requirements required for completing the course.

**CHEATING: ANY STUDENT CAUGHT CHEATING WILL BE ASSIGNED A GRADE OF "F".** The student's academic advisor will be notified of the failing grade.

**COVID-19 POLICY:** Students should keep up-to date on the University's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this UAF website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf-uaf-students?authuser=0>

Students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates.

Students are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

**STUDENT PROTECTIONS POLICY: UAF EMBRACES A CULTURE OF RESPECT, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND CARING.** Students at UAF are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do NOT share the same reporting obligations. As a student, UAF provides resources available to you.

For more information on your rights go to the following site:

<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You are responsible for conferring with your instructor concerning absences and the possibility of arranging to make up missed work.

If you are required to participate in (a) military, (b) UAF-sponsored activity or (c) health or family emergency, notify your instructor as soon as possible.

Syllabus Addendum (Revised 8/10/2021)

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Further, students are expected to adhere to the