CHEM 4190: Chemical Literature  
Fall 2019 Syllabus  
University of Texas at Tyler  
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Dr. Jason Smee

Course Description

Students will research a current literature topic and present it at a poster session. **Prerequisite:** Senior Standing.

Course Content

This course is the first of a 2-semester capstone sequence for the B.S. degrees in Chemistry and in Biochemistry. As such, it’s designed to teach you how to perform the second most important job of any chemist, the dissemination of chemical information.

Scientists communicate the fruits of their labor mostly in writing (i.e. scientific journals). Conferences and other forms of verbal communication; however, are also vitally important. Success in such endeavors is an important part of getting other scientists to take your ideas and results seriously. Good communications skills are also important in getting and maintaining a job.

Thus any training to becoming a successful chemist must contain significant literature and presentation components, which you will get in this course.

This course has 6 major components:
1. Attending the Library training session on accessing the chemical literature
2. Attending in-class Career Success presentations (Handshake app, cover letter and resume writing, interviewing skills, and professional attire/behavior) presented by the CAS Career Success Coach
3. Accessing the chemical literature and selecting a topic
4. Meeting with a faculty mentor to guide you along the way
5. Preparing a one-paragraph abstract for the topic to be presented
6. Preparing the poster and presenting it at the poster session
Course Canvas Page

Additional information, including announcements, poster templates, and previous examples of posters and seminar PowerPoints, and the tentative course schedule can be found at the course Canvas site.

Getting Help with Canvas
As a student, if you have never used Canvas or are just beginning a new semester, The Canvas 101 course at https://uttyler.instructure.com/courses/2157 will help you get started. Please take the time to look at this brief tutorial on Canvas.

Required Materials

There are no required materials for this class.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to acquire, evaluate, and integrate information from the chemical literature.

2. Effectively organize and present the scientific information verbally and in writing at a poster session.

Other Course Information

1. The course meets every M from 12:20 – 1:15 pm in RBS 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

2. Students must have their topic approved by the instructor.

3. Students must meet with their mentor at least three times, one of which must be to narrow down their topic and one of which must be a practice run with the full, printed poster.

4. Students must submit a one-paragraph abstract of their topic prior to the poster session.

5. Failure to meet items 2—4 above in a timely fashion will require your poster presentation to be rescheduled. This will result in your final course grade being lowered by 5%.
Course Grade

Your course grade will be determined as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>30%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor Meetings</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance: Library Workshop</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance: Career Success Workshops</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Abstract</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*You must receive a grade of “C” or better on the poster to pass this course.

You must pass this course with a grade of “C” or better to satisfy graduation requirements.

Topic Selection & Attitude

- Your topic needs to have a strong chemical or biochemical focus in terms of synthesis, characterization, and/or biological effects. Presenting a poster on the effects of vitamin C on the common cold where the study consisted of people subjectively ranking how well they feel on a subjective scale after taking vitamin C is not an appropriate topic for this course. Your instructor can help guide you, but don’t wait until the last moment.

- Pick a topic you are interested in, not just one that is easy. If you are not excited about your topic, it is a guarantee that no one else will be either and that can make or break a presentation.

- Take pride in your presentation. One of the main purposes of this course is for you to demonstrate what you have learned. Not taking this course seriously will not only hurt your grade in this course, but it will also have a negative impact on letters of recommendation.

“The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.”
— George Jessel (comedic entertainer, 1898—1981)

“Being a little nervous when you present means that you really care about what you have to say. Audience members see this as a signal that you are solicitous of their esteem—there is a graceful humility this—and that you care enough to want to do a great job. Caring for your audience almost always has a boomerang effect.”
— Bruna Martinuzzi, (founder of Clarion Enterprises Ltd.)
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Course Timeline &amp; Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Introduction/Syllabus</td>
<td>Begin Thinking About Poster/Seminar Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Labor Day—No class</td>
<td>Start Narrowing Topic(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>Library Tutorial: Chemical Literature (Room TBD)</td>
<td>Continue Narrowing Topic(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Career Success Coach: Using the Handshake app</td>
<td>Finalize Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Questions; check on your progress</td>
<td>Poster/Seminar Topic Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Study hall—work on poster</td>
<td>Literature Foundation Due (at least 5 papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Career Success Coach: Resumes and Cover Letters</td>
<td>Mentor Meetings; Poster Draft in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Study hall—work on poster</td>
<td>Mentor Meetings; Poster Draft in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Career Success Coach: Interviewing Skills</td>
<td>Start Finalizing Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Career Success Coach: Professional Dress and Behavior</td>
<td>Continue Finalizing Poster</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Study hall—work on poster</td>
<td>Work on abstract; submit rough draft of poster to mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Print posters</td>
<td>Poster abstract due! Practice with mentor!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td><strong>Poster Session</strong></td>
<td>Enjoy your break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving—No class this week</td>
<td>Enjoy your break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Poster Feedback</td>
<td>Look over comments to prepare for Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Study Day—No classes</td>
<td>Get ready for finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>No final exam!!!</td>
<td>You are done! (with this class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates important date/deadline*

### Other Important Dates

- **September 5**—Career Success Conference (If you have TR classes please attend; attendance will be taken.)
- September 6—College Career Fair
- **September 9**—Census Date (last day to apply for grade replacement, etc.)
- **October 1**—VERY Last Day to Apply for Fall Graduation
- **November 4**—Last day to drop with a “W” (If you drop the class there is the possibility that your graduation could be delayed.)
- **November 15**—Priority Deadline to Apply for Spring Graduation (apply before next semester to catch anything you might have missed before it’s too late!)
University Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, sniff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and replaced grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttler.edu/disabilityservices, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.
University Policies (cont.)

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students
- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)