

CHEMISTRY 404 - SENIOR SEMINAR II
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2009

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Mark Jensen
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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. 8:45-9:45
Tues. 1:45-2:45
Wed. 8:45-9:45
(or whenever I'm around)

COURSE MEETING TIME: Fridays, 3:00-4:00pm, Ivers 386.

COURSE WEB PAGE: <http://www4.cord.edu/chemistry/jensen/chem404/> - This page is directly accessible from my homepage. A course schedule, syllabus, and other information relevant to the course will be posted here.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is the second in a two-course sequence (Chem 403/404) dealing with the preparation and presentation of a major paper in the field of chemistry. The focus of Chem 403 was on the fundamentals of researching the paper, writing the paper, and giving the presentation. In Chem 404, the seminars will be given and final versions of papers will be submitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE: The anticipated course schedule is as follows:

Jan	9	First Draft of Paper Due
	1	SEMINARS: Dan Ram / Brock Jas
	6	
	2	SEMINARS: Alex Ritter
	3	
	3	No class (Science Academy)
	0	
Feb	6	SEMINAR: Werth Lecture (attendance required)
	1	Assessment Day (2:40-5:00; attendance required)
	3	
	2	No class (Spring Break)
	0	
	2	No class (Spring Break)
	7	
Mar	6	No class (Science Academy)
	1	SEMINARS: Mackenzie Becker / Mike Erbele
	3	
	2	SEMINARS: Jonathan Funk / Jen Hildahl
	0	
	2	SEMINARS: Jake Moen / George Hauser
	7	
Apr	3	SEMINARS: Jeremy Drees / Patrick Cool
	1	No class (Easter Break)
	0	
	1	No class (NCUR Meeting)
	7	
	2	SEMINAR: Sarah Freeman / Nick Kvam

SEMINAR ADVISORS: You will work with your seminar advisor (chosen last semester) to prepare both the paper and the seminar.

GRADING: The course grade will be based on a 100-point maximum, distributed through the following three areas:

- **Seminar:** The seminar is worth 50 points. All faculty members present will meet following the seminar to determine the grade. The evaluation form is available on the course website. There are seven evaluation categories and each category marked as “below expectations” will result in a 5-point deduction.
- **Paper:** The paper will also be worth 50 points. You will work with your seminar advisor to prepare each draft, and your seminar advisor will determine the final point total. **Be sure to follow the guidelines and format shown on the course website.**
- **Attendance** is a strict requirement for this class and only documented excuses for absence will be accepted without penalty. Each undocumented absence will result in a 10-point reduction in the final course grade.
- **Deadlines** are listed below. Each missed deadline will result in a 5-point per day reduction in the final course grade.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following guidelines:

A-: 90 B-: 80 C-: 70 D-: 60

DEADLINES: There are a number of important deadlines associated with the course. Each of you will receive a sheet listing each of these deadlines. Your seminar advisor must sign each item on this sheet by the date listed. The deadlines for this course are as follows:

First completed draft of paper (completed to advisor’s satisfaction)	Friday, Jan. 9
Subsequent drafts of paper	Determined by advisor
Final draft of paper (signed by advisor, turned into Dr. Jensen)	Monday, Apr. 27
Electronic copy of paper emailed to Dr. Jensen	Monday, Apr. 27
Videotaped practice seminar	2 days prior to seminar
Written self-critique of practice seminar	1 day prior to seminar

As stated above, a missed deadline will result in a 5-point per day reduction in your course grade.

DEPARTMENT GOALS: The Chemistry Department faculty has agreed upon the following list of goals that graduating seniors are to develop by the time they complete the chemistry major. Goals emphasized in this course are shown in *italics*.

A chemistry major should:

1. Have a firm understanding of the core principles of chemistry as they apply to each of the major subdivisions of the discipline.
2. *Be able to effectively communicate their knowledge of the field, both through writing and speaking.*
3. *Be comfortable and competent in the use of modern technology for the acquisition, analysis, and presentation of chemical data and information.*
4. Possess good problem-solving skills, and be able to apply these skills both independently and collaboratively.
5. Be able to gather experimental data safely and accurately using a wide variety of laboratory instruments and methods.
6. *Be able to apply their knowledge of chemistry to the explanation and interpretation of new or unfamiliar chemical information.*
7. *Be able to select, interpret, and utilize relevant scientific literature from a variety of sources including libraries, electronic databases, and the Internet.*
8. *Understand and honor the ethical issues related to the use and misuse of chemical information and materials.*

9. Be able to apply their knowledge and skills to professional experiences such as teaching, conducting research, and participating in internships.
10. Gain an understanding of the relationship of chemistry to other sciences and to the needs of society as a whole.