**Chemistry 4010 – Seminar in Chemistry**

**Attendance**: required, except when prior permission is granted.

**Course schedule**:

Fridays are departmental seminar days. Seminars are presented by invited speakers, ETSU faculty, and students on research topics of recent advances in chemistry. Students will attend, listen to, and evaluate these seminars. Then the students will give a formal presentation during the latter part of the semester. To prepare for their formal presentations the students will analyze and discuss the Friday afternoon seminars. Wednesday will be devoted to discussions of how to present a seminar, evaluating the previous Friday’s seminar, and discussing and practicing the seminars that the students will be presenting.

**Student’s seminar:**

The students will give a 15-20 minute formal presentation on a chosen chemistry-related topic. Students engaged in chemical research (CHEM 4900) may present their research findings.

To prepare for their formal presentations the students will:

1. Analyze the Friday afternoon seminars (both content and presentation).
2. Discuss possible seminar topics and present to the group their progress in choosing topics.

A tentative outline will be distributed to the group at least four weeks before presentation time. Before formal presentation the students will practice their presentations at Wednesday meetings.

**Course grade**:

Grading for this course will necessarily be subjective. Chemistry faculty and registered students will evaluate the formal presentations. This will contribute 70% of your grade. Wednesday discussions will account for the remaining 30%. Attendance and participation will be important.

**Oral communication assignments**:

Successful completion of the formal presentation will clearly bolster self-confidence. All aspects of the course are designed to lead the success in this presentation. Attendance at the Friday afternoon seminars is open to all. They are advertised on wall posters in the Science building and invitations are sent to potentially interested parties. Students will be required to listen attentively to all seminars presentations throughout the semester and to discuss both the content and quality of presentations at our Wednesday meetings. In addition they will discuss their chosen seminar topics with class members and faculty. Students are expected to field questions on their presentations, from both students and faculty, during the formal presentations.

**Oral communication instruction**:

Since the students enrolled in CHEM 4010 are seniors, they will have taken at least one OCI course. Thus some instruction already will have been given. In any case, the first several Wednesday meetings will be devoted to oral communication instruction. Throughout the semester students will receive “instructions” on the do’s and don’ts of seminar presentation by criticism of the Friday presentations. Most of outside speakers are faculty from sciences departments at ETSU or from the College of Medicine and from neighboring universities.

**Oral communication assessment:**

Formal presentation evaluations will be accumulated from enrolled students and from chemistry faculty in attendance. These will be shared with the student presenters.