

CHEM 4001 CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

Fall 2026 Syllabus F 1:00 am -1:50 pm

Course Instructor

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Office: Bolin Hall 307E

Class Website: D2L website

Office Hour: MW 10:00-12:00 am; F 10:00-11:00 am by appointment

Purpose of the Syllabus

The purpose of the syllabus is to inform you about course expectations, policies, and content. Ignorance of course policies because you did not read your syllabus will not be an acceptable excuse for not adhering to these policies. Because the syllabus is also available online, you cannot lose it. By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the course, you affirm that you understand the contents of this syllabus and that you will adhere to its requirements.

Prerequisites

Course or Test: CHEM 3000 to 49999, Required Credits: 6.000, Minimum Grade of D, May not be taken concurrently. Six advanced hours in chemistry. May not be counted toward the minor in chemistry.

Course Policy:

- **Deadlines:** (i) Title and paper selection is due on **Sept 25, 2026**, and make sure to send out the paper (PDF format) to instructor by email (ii) Abstract of your talk is due one weeks prior to your presentation date, sent to instructor by email. (iii) **Two weeks** before the scheduled presentation, the presenter should check with the instructor(s) to view the slide show. This will provide sufficient time to make any changes that may arise from that meeting.
- **Format of abstract:** The abstract is to be limited to 200 words describing the topic in detail to outline the intent or subject matter of the presentation in original wording **by the presenter**. Submit the abstract electronically to fucheng.liang@msutexas.edu in MS word format. The abstract must include full references to the paper used (e.g. author(s), title, journal title, publication date, volume, and page numbers).
- **Paper Searching:** The topic of the presentation must be from current literature of chemistry or a field in which CHEMISTRY is the major component. Inorganic, Organic, Biochemical, Analytical and Physical Chemistry are the traditional areas. Literature searches can be made with the search engine – “**Scifinder Scholar**” or “**Pubmed**” from any computers. See the next page on how to self-register and sign-in to “**Scifinder**”. Find the paper you feel like and get the electronic copy of the paper through the interlibrary loan provided by the MSU Moffett Library. The interlibrary loan can be accessed at MSU [interlibrary loan link](#). Some open access journals provide from free publication copies.
- **Length of presentation:** The presentation will be **20 minutes** in length. Deviation from this time interval may result in deductions from the score. Presentation is to be with MS PowerPoint or Google slides software. Practice talk is required for the overall time management.
- **Grading Rule:** The overall grade of this course will be calculated based on (i) reviews from the faculty (ii) performance of your presentation; (iii) attendance; (iv) abstract of the presentation.

Tips for preparing the oral presentation:

1. **Purposeful Design:** Ensure all slide content supports the main message. Avoid unnecessary images or complex color schemes. Opt for white or light backgrounds with black text, and use color fonts or bold type sparingly to emphasize key points.
2. **Legible Text:** Use fonts that are easily readable (26–34 point). Slides should convey basic, clear concepts to be elaborated on verbally—avoid overcrowding with text that requires small fonts.
3. **Organization is Key:** Structure the presentation logically. Include a title, introduction, experimental section, results and discussion, conclusion, and acknowledgments for a polished and professional flow.
4. **Time Management:** Allocate 2–3 minutes per slide. For a 20-minute talk, use 6–10 slides; a one-hour talk typically requires about 25 slides. Avoid overloading slides with information—focus on verbal delivery for impact.
5. **Engage the Audience:** Speak directly to the audience rather than reading from slides. Practice alone to build familiarity with the material and boost confidence. Professional presentations are typically rehearsed about six times.
6. **Prepare for Questions:** Anticipate questions from the audience by conducting thorough background research on the topic.
7. **Effective Delivery:** Practice clear diction and ensure sufficient volume to be easily understood. Strong verbal delivery enhances the presentation's impact.

Final Grade Assessment

Final grades will be calculated using the following distributions:

Final Grade Assessment	Percentage
Presentation	60%
Attendance at all seminars	20%
Abstract for presentation	20%

Overall, final course grades will be based on the following scale: A (90% or higher); B (80-89.9%); C (70-79.9%); D (60-69.9%); F (59.9% or less).

How to Self-register and Sign-in for Scifinder Scholar:

1. Each user of SciFinder must self-register to get a unique login. The process is quite simple. Follow the [SciFinder weblink](#) and the instructions on the screen to self-register.
2. Once you have successfully registered and answered the email they send to you, you can access Scifinder directly at this [weblink](#).