

**SEMINAR IN CHEMISTRY**  
CHEM 4940/8800 (1.0 credits)  
Department of Chemistry, Georgia State University  
2016 Fall semester



**Instructors:** Gregory M. K. Poon, Ph.D.  
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**Time and location:** Fridays, 3:45 to 5:00 pm, PSC 101

**Prerequisites:** Departmental approval

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Apply critical thinking skills while listening to a seminar. This outcome will be assessed by the students' questions posed to the speaker and in their notes and summary of the seminar;
2. Display knowledge of chemistry. This outcome will be assessed using the notes taken during the seminar. The students' notes should demonstrate an understanding of the seminar topic and the chemical principles involved. Undergraduate students will display a general knowledge of chemical principles while graduate students will display a more detailed knowledge based on their area of concentration and the seminar topic.

**General instruction:**

3. It is required that enrolled students attend and sign in at all departmental seminars. If you miss a seminar due to illness, family emergency or university-sponsored activities, documentation is required for an excused absence.
4. Students are required to take notes during the seminars. By 6:00 PM, Friday, December 2, 2017 students must turn in a notebook that records, for each seminar attended: (1) the date of the seminar, (2) name and home institution of the speaker, (3) seminar title and a short paragraph (no more than 10 sentences needed) summarizing the essence of the seminar; and (4) your notes as taken during seminar. Include chemical structures in your raw notes when applicable. Notes should be organized chronologically. While there is no requirement to transcribe your notes into a "neater" format, the summaries need to be neat and well thought-out. Notes for those taking Graduate CHEM 8800 are expected to be more extensive than those taking CHEM 4940.
5. A **Table of Contents** is also required as the first page of your notebook. Any excused absence or replacement/s should be listed in the Table of Contents.
6. Please organize the format of your notebook before the first seminar so that for each seminar you designate space for summary, questions and answers, and raw notes. Please also leave space for a Table of Contents at the beginning of the notebook. It is important that the notebook is organized in a fashion that is easy to understand to the instructors.

7. The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Refer to the seminar schedule on the GSU Chemistry website for any late-breaking changes.

**Missed seminar policy:**

If you have more than 2 excused absences for those taking CHEM 4940 or 1 for those taking CHEM 8800 due to illness and/or other emergencies (again documentation required for all missed seminars), makeup is required. **There is no unexcused absence allowed.** Please discuss with either instructor BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MISSED SEMINAR on ways to substitute missed seminars to ensure that your grades will not be affected by the absence. **Unexcused absence will adversely affect your grades.** Possibilities for make-up (with permission of the instructors) include Chemistry special seminars, the Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics (CDT) seminars (held on Mondays), Molecular Basis of Disease (MBD) seminars, Biology Department seminars (on Fridays) or Brain and Behavior program seminars.

**Grading and assessments:**

Attendance 30%

Summary of the seminar 30%

Raw Notes 40%

Bonus points will be given for very active participation.

**Grading Scale:**

Students can be assured of the following grades by attaining the following scores:

94%	<b>A+</b>	84%	<b>B+</b>	74%	<b>C+</b>	60%	<b>D</b>
90%	<b>A</b>	80%	<b>B</b>	70%	<b>C</b>	Below 50%	<b>F</b>
87%	<b>A-</b>	77%	<b>B-</b>	67%	<b>C-</b>		