

Chemistry 2130

Sophomore Chemistry Seminar

Spring 2020



Instructor: Dr. Martin R. McPhail
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Office Hours: M//Tu 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
F 9:30 am – 11:30 am
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Course Information

Class: Chem 2130 (CRN 10194)
Meeting Times: Friday 12:20 pm – 1:10 pm
Room: TLC 2105

Course Description

A course designed to introduce Chemistry majors to current literature and career opportunities in Chemistry and allied fields. Faculty will present brief seminars pertaining to their research and topics of current interest. Students will carry out literature searches and make oral and/or written presentations on topics chosen in consultation with the instructor(s).

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Understand and interpret formal scientific papers and scientific presentations
2. Use common chemical databases to find chemical information based on subject and compound searches.
3. Plot and obtain meaningful results from provided research data
4. Find potential jobs and graduate school openings as well as write a CV and/or resume as appropriate to apply for these positions
5. Understand and discuss the American Chemical Society (ACS) Chemist's Code of Conduct and the ACS Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research
6. Communicate scientific ideas effectively in written presentations

Course Assessment

Students' progress towards mastery of the learning outcomes will be tracked and assessed via:

Attendance (30%)

The content for this course will primarily be delivered through in-class lectures, presentations, and group activities, so you are expected to attend and actively participate. At the start of each class you will be asked to sign in; arriving **more than ten minutes late** constitutes an absence. You may have at most **two unexcused absences**. If you have to miss class due to an unexpected medical issue, please contact me as soon as possible.

Homework (30%)

Homework assignments will allow you to practice and reflect on the skills and information discussed in lecture. These may take the form of literature searches, worksheets, or reflective writing assignments. **All writing assignments should follow the formatting guidelines listed below.** Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of the next class period. **10% credit is deducted per day late on any assignment.**

Final Paper (40%)

Being able to express your ideas clearly and concisely is a critical skill across all disciplines. This class is part of UWG's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve student writing skills. To this end, you will work on writing a paper over the course of the semester. Details on individual components of this assignment will be provided in another handout.

The grade for this assignment will be determined from the following breakdown of the component assignments:

- Initial topic choice and summary (10%)
- Research article descriptions (20%)
- First Draft (20%)
- Peer Feedback (10%)
- Final Draft (40%)

Grading Scale

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

Grade Calculation Formula

$$\text{Grade \%} = [(\text{Attendance}) * 0.3] + [(\text{HW}) * 0.3] + [(\text{Final Paper}) * 0.4]$$

Course Policies and Information

Extra-Credit Policy

No extra credit is accepted for this course.

Formatting Guidelines

All written assignments for this course should follow the following formatting guidelines:

- Page size should be 8 ½ x 11”
- 1-inch margins on both top and bottom of the page
- 12-point Times New Roman Font
- Double-spaced
- Indent the first line of every paragraph
- Text alignment should be justified

Student Conduct

Students are obligated to abide by conduct guidelines as described in the university catalog. Respect and courtesy of all students while in the classroom is required. The following are also mandatory:

1. Any disruptive behavior will result in your expulsion from the room. If disruptive behavior persists you will receive a minimum of a one letter-grade deduction from your overall grade as well as possible additional action depending on the severity of the behavior.
2. All electronic devices must be silenced during lecture. Calls may only be answered in the case of emergencies by stepping out into the hall. **Laptops and tablets are permitted**, but if your use of these devices becomes disruptive their use will be disallowed for the remainder of the semester.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the above. Following “common sense” behavior should prevent any of the above problems. Failure to adhere to conduct guidelines could result in *dismissal from class, a deduction from your final course grade, as well as further disciplinary action.*

University Policies and Academic Support

Please review the Common Language for all university course syllabi at the address: https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

This document contains important information regarding Academic Support, Online Courses, Honor Code, Email Policy, Credit Hour Policy, and HB 280 (Campus Carry).

Academic Honesty

Any form of academic dishonesty—including but not limited to cheating or plagiarism—will result in a failing grade on the relevant assignment as well as possible additional action. Please be familiar with the definitions of academic dishonesty and plagiarism as laid out in the Student Handbook, which can be found at the link: <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/>

Disabilities Act / Accessibility for the Course

If you are a student with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please notify me and provide me with a copy of your packet from Student Services. The university will provide you with resources for any audio/visual needs that you may have with the learning management system or course content.

It is critical that you contact UWG Accessibility Services immediately to find out what accommodations are necessary so we can work together to facilitate your success in this class. Please consult the UWG Accessibility Services site <http://www.westga.edu/accessibility> or call (678) 839-6428 for more details regarding accessibility for this course.

Note on Syllabus Modifications

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the course of the term. Students will be notified of all syllabus modifications. In a case where a substantial modification is required, I will reissue a revised syllabus.