Inorganic Chemistry Seminar
Chemistry 776-002
Spring 2014
Fridays, 12:00 p.m., CP-137

Instructor:
Beth S. Guiton, CP-148C, phone 257-4215, email beth.guiton@uky.edu

Office hours:
Monday 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Course Description:
Reports and discussions on recent research and current literature. Required of all graduate students. May be repeated for a total of eight credits. (1 credit hour)

Grading:
Students taking CHE 776 for a grade will be evaluated mainly on the basis of two oral presentations – a seminar on a topic from the recent chemical literature, and a ten-minute talk on their current research topic. The Inorganic Chemistry faculty will evaluate student presentations. Criteria for evaluation will include selection of topic, literature coverage, quality of the abstract, visual aids and presentation, participation in group discussion classes, and observance of proper format and deadlines. Student comments on seminars will be solicited by means of a brief evaluation sheet. Student comments will be considered in the seminar grade and will be transmitted *anonymously* to the presenter. Feedback from the instructor on the oral presentations may be solicited by the student during office hours, or by the arrangement of an individual meeting.

Abstract (authoring *and* editing) = 10%
Seminar = 30%
Ten-minute talk = 30%
Class participation, including preparation and participation in group discussion, attendance, and evaluation forms = 30%

Course Schedule:
A course schedule including the topics or titles of student seminars will be distributed after all topics are approved. Seminar notices will be included in **Chem News**. The schedule and student abstracts will be distributed by email to students registered for CHE 776-002, faculty and postdocs in the inorganic chemistry division, and anyone else interested, as well as posted on the course website, http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/guiton/che776_S14.php.

Student seminars:
Content. Student seminars must provide a good overview of a contemporary topic in inorganic chemistry. **Topics are due to the instructor in writing by January 31**. Although topics can be modified (usually narrowed) as the seminar is prepared, significant changes must be cleared with the instructor. Seminars must draw information from articles in the **primary** chemical literature, i.e., original research articles about inorganic chemistry. Although review articles can be used for

background, **seminars must not merely summarize a published review article**. Computer literature searches can be run with SciFinder, Web of Science and other tools. Contact the Chemistry-Physics library for assistance. An exact title, which will be distributed *via* email in **Chem News**, must be turned in to the instructor at or before the CHE 776 meeting two weeks before the date of the seminar.

Abstract. The presenter must prepare a one-page abstract prior to the seminar. Abstract instructions and format are posted on the class webpage. Although most students have an adequate personal computer, additional resources including Microsoft Word and ChemDraw are available in UK computer labs or in individual research groups. The abstract in Microsoft Word, format must be emailed to the student editor (instructor copied) by **February 7**, and corrected abstracts returned to the author (with comments and corrections added using the track changes function) by **February 14** (instructor copied). There is no penalty for early submission! If changes are needed, they must be made by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday preceding the seminar. The abstract will be posted on the on-line course web site, and circulated electronically to the class members and the Inorganic Chemistry Division. Speakers are encouraged to bring a few paper copies of their abstract to the seminar.

Presentation. Seminars must be 35 to 40 minutes long. PowerPoint or a similar computer-based presentation is required, using the LCD projector in CP-137. Either the provided Windows computer or your own computer can be used with the projector. A key to the can should be borrowed in advance from the chemistry office (CP-125) to check for computer or projection problems. Ed Duhr (CP-133) or I can help you to trouble-shoot. As far as I know, neither an overhead projector nor a slide projector is available in CP-137.

Feedback. As soon as possible after a seminar, the instructor will provide an *anonymous* summary of student and instructor comments to the speaker. After reviewing them, you may set up a brief conference with the instructor, during office hours or by appointment.

Ten-minute talks:
All registered students, audit or graded, are expected to participate fully in the constructive criticism of each other's slides and practice talks. Each graded student must prepare a ten-minute talk on their own research project – a previously completed project, one they are currently working on, or something they would like to work on are all acceptable topics. The schedule for preparing, practicing, and giving these presentations will be circulated to the students with this syllabus.

Cumulative Examination review:
The writer of each Inorganic Chemistry Cumulative Examination will review it in the week following the exam. Only students who are currently taking cumulative exams are required to attend, but everyone is welcome.

Absence Policy:
Given the small class size and group participation required for this class, attendance of all classes except cume reviews is mandatory barring a legitimate excused absence. Every two unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter. Excused absences are defined in the UK Bulletin.

Attendance at a professional meeting is considered an excused absence. Policies related to official University excused absences may be found in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* manual. [See http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html, Section 5.2.4.2.] Please inform the instructor about excused absences as early as possible.

Please support your fellow students by showing up on time. Chronic tardiness will be treated the same as absence.

If you are registered for audit, the instructor will follow the University regulations regarding auditing a course. These regulations state that a student must attend at least 80% of the classes in the course (excluding excused absences); otherwise, a grade of "W" may be awarded.

Academic offenses:

The University of Kentucky strictly penalizes academic offenses, including plagiarism. Links to University rules are found at http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html, Sections 6.3.0–6.6.0. The Department of Chemistry considers any type of academic dishonesty a serious offense and we will respond appropriately. Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own. Please be vigilant about writing your own abstract and presentation. Properly cite the source of information that you use from the literature or the a website. *Presenting downloaded information nearly verbatim from a website, including Wikipedia or presentations found on-line, constitutes plagiarism.* If you are uncertain about what may constitute academic dishonesty in the course, please ask the instructor.

Resources:

1. Dodd, J. S.; Solla, L.; Bérard, P. M. *The ACS style guide: effective communication of scientific information*, Third edition; Coghill, A. M.; Garson, L. R., Eds.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 2006.
2. Morgan, S.; Whitener, B. *Speaking about science: a manual for creating clear presentations*; Cambridge University Press: New York, 2006.