

**Instructor:** Rory Waterman  
Cook A-129  
656-0278  
rory.waterman@uvm.edu

**Meeting time:** Scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:25–5:40 PM. Our meetings will be in the chemistry conference room, all seminars (check department web page for scheduling) will be in Lafayette L-207.

**Office hours:** Stop by my office as needed or feel free to make an appointment.

**Course description:** This is the capstone experience for chemistry majors. The catalogue text “Oral and written presentation of a subject of current chemical interest” is terrifically accurate. By pulling together information from the literature on a current topic, you leverage your preparation at UVM to produce a short written synopsis and department-wide presentation.

The plan is to use the semester to selected and build your presentation. This requires ample outside reading early in the semester as well as some discussion. Additionally, significant effort is required to produce (and practice!) a presentation in front of the department.

**Learning goals:** The goal of this course is for students to perform some critical analysis of the chemical literature and disseminate that analysis in both written and oral form. You have undertaken all of these activities in the course of your degree. Therefore, the goal of the course is to execute a more advanced effort in literature searching and analysis, synthesis of data, and written and oral presentation.

The department has retained this exercise for decades because these skills are essential. It is routine that individuals in any job sector are required to present on relevant topics, use appropriate resources to support ideas or plans, and provide succinct reports. These are skills that get jobs and lead to promotions.

**Selection of topics:** Topic selection is a significant challenge. These are my three major thoughts on this subject.

1. Your topic should be current, which would be demonstrated by significant activity in the last five years.
2. Your topic must be chemical. This would appear to be obvious, but it is easy to get trapped in overly extensive background or applications. The litmus test of how chemical



order, but you have all semester to work on it. We will talk a lot about presentation structure,

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event/speaker</b> | Course Schedule                   | <b>Location</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1/19        | spring TET EMC       | /P 274.g247.821urspring 66.624 6E |                 |