

**Instructor:** Rory Waterman  
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**Meeting time:** Fridays, 2:20–3:10 PM, Lafayette L-102

**Office hours:** Mondays and Thursdays between 1:00–2:30 PM. You can easily book times via Navigate or contact me to make an appointment.

**Inclusion in science:** In the Department of Chemistry, we have agreed that sharing our thoughts on inclusive science is important as a part of our on-going commitment to equity in access and diversity throughout our field.

Here are my thoughts: First, you are welcome and belong in this class and in chemistry. cInclusion in science

**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. Therefore, we need to have students

1. Practice skills in literature searching.
2. Synthesize important ideas from multiple sources.
3. Evaluate literature with respect to the quality of conclusions and their potential impact.
4. Summarize data into less formal short presentations.
5. Execute a formal colloquium-type 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 for a presentation is a critical. 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 a presentation is come from asking, “does this topic primarily deal with the physical properties of molecular substances?”
- 3.

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**Topic round robin:** Your first “presentation” will merely be sharing your nascent topics. To get the job done well, you should share the general area of your topic and an anticipated thesis for

and images that are used in your presentation and write up, which are not your own, and that you conform to UVM standards for academic honesty.

**Grading:** Your performance in this course will depend on four factors (in order of importance):

- 1) The quality and completeness of your presentation (60%).
  - Presentation mechanics (slides, organization, continuity, clarity, etc.): 70%
  - Content (scope and depth) from presentation, paper, and Q&A: 30%
- 2) Prospectus, pick-apart, & summary of topics: 20%
- 3) Peer critiques: 20% Depending on the number of students, you will be required to submit critiques for approximately half of the presentations.

All items are due in class (at 2:20 pm) unless otherwise noted.

### Course Schedule

CHEM

Tips for Success:

Course-specific study/preparation tips

observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/religious-holidays>

#### Academic Integrity:

The policy addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating.

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

#### Grade Appeals:

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy:

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf>

#### Grading:

For information on grading and GPA calculation, go to <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/grades>

#### Code of Student Conduct:

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf>

#### FERPA Rights Disclosure:

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/ferparightsdisclosure/>

#### Promoting Health & Safety:

The University of Vermont's number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community:

Center for Health and Wellbeing:

<https://www.uvm.edu/health>

C.A.R.E. If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at <https://www.uvm.edu/studentaffairs>

### Final Exam Policy:

The University final exam policy outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/final-exams>

### Alcohol and Cannabis Statement:

The Division of Student Affairs has offered the following statement on alcohol and cannabis use that faculty may choose to include, or modify for inclusion, in their syllabus or Blackboard site:

#### Statement on Alcohol and Cannabis in the Academic Environment

As a faculty member, I want you to get the most you can out of this course. You play a crucial role in your education and in your readiness to learn and fully engage with the course material. It is important to note that alcohol and cannabis have no place in an academic environment. They can seriously impair your ability to learn and retain information not only in the moment you may be using, but up to 48 hours or more afterwards. In addition, alcohol and cannabis can:

- Cause issues with attention, memory and concentration
- Negatively impact the quality of how information is processed and ultimately stored
- Affect sleep patterns, which interferes with long-term memory formation

It is my expectation that you will do everything you can to optimize your learning and to fully participate in this course.