CHEM 290: Seminar (0.5 credit) Spring 2007

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Course Meeting Time: Tuesday, 12:00-12:50 pm

Location: Chem-Chem Engr Building, Room 228

Instructor: Zhengtao Zhu; Office: Chem-Chem Engr. 316; Phone: 394 2447; Email: zhengtao.zhu@sdsmt.edu; Office hours: M, W, 4:00 -5:30 pm; F, 2:00 – 2:50 pm; or by appointment

Textbook: None

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. CHEM290 is a highly focused and topical course on scientific presentation and writing skills. The format includes student presentations and discussions of reports based on literature, practices, problems, and research. Enrollment is generally limited to fewer than 20 students.

Objectives: At the conclusion of CHEM 290, students should be able to

1. Understand the principles of organization and development that are required to produce a variety of short, basic technical documents.
2. Understand the basic components of planning and preparing effective oral presentation of technical and professional material.
3. Improve thought processes by formulating questions on observed seminars.

Outcomes: In CHEM 290 students will demonstrate effective technical communication by

1. Observing well organized and effectively designed short, basic technical documents.
2. Recognizing and using appropriate conventional formats and visuals for a variety of basic technical/professional documents.
3. Observing a technical communication style based on conciseness, clarity and fluency.

Grading Policy:
Your grade is determined by two parts: participation in class discussion (50%) and term paper (50%).

Participation in class discussion includes the attendance and questions you formulate on the seminars you attend. You need to hand in three questions for every seminar you attend with two sets of questions per sheet. On this sheet, please include your name on the top and the name of the speaker and the date of the presentation with three questions for that seminar. You should make up the questions as the seminar is being given. You are encouraged to ask questions after the presentation. One excused absence will be allowed with no deduction in grade. Unexcused absences will result in the reduction of the final grade by a full letter.

Term paper: You need to write a concise report or summary on a topic selected from “News of the Week” in Chemical and Engineering News, a flagship magazine of American Chemistry Society. The report would summarize techniques, conclusion, background and the significance of the work. The report is about 2 pages, including necessary figures, tables, and references. Use 12 pts Time New Roman fonts, 1.5 lines spacing, and 1 inch margins. The paper is due at 12:30 pm on May. 1, 2007. **Note that no internet reference is allowed.**

*Students with special needs or requiring special accommodations should contact the instructor, (Zhengtao Zhu, at 394 2447) and/or the campus ADA coordinator, Jolie McCoy, at 394-1924 at the earliest opportunity.*

*Freedom in learning. Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.*