CHEM 490: Seminar (0.5 credit) Spring 2011

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, 2:00-2:50pm, F 10:00-10:50 am, or by appointment

Textbook: None

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. CHEM490 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.

Course Content: Graduating senior students enrolled in CHEM490 are required to give a presentation based on a research article published from one of the American Chemical Society journals, the list of which can be found at the website of http://pubs.acs.org/about.html. The presentation is about 30 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion. Other students in the class are required to participate the discussion after the presentation.

Objectives: At the conclusion of CHEM 490, 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.

Outcomes: In CHEM 490 students will demonstrate effective technical communication by

1. Producing 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:** You will be graded on your presentation and your participation in the class.

Presentation: Students enrolled in Chem490 will give a seminar through Spring 2011. The format of the seminar is 30 minutes presentation and 10 minutes discussion. You will give a presentation on a topic selected from a research article published in one of the American Chemical Society Journals. You are required to email the title of your presentation (including the title and author list of the research article and the journal in which the article was published) **before 1:00 PM, Feb. 15** to Dr. Zhu (Email: Zhentao.Zhu@sdsmt.edu). Fail to meet the deadline will result in the reduction of the final grade.

For an oral presentation, common criteria include (1) conciseness, clarity, and fluency of the presentation and (2) formats and visuals of the presentation will be used to judge your seminar. Your presentation will be evaluated by the instructors and the other students in the class. Fail to meet the above requirements will result in the reduction of the final grade by a full letter.

Discussion: The students who do not give presentation should prepare to raise questions for discussion as the seminar is being given. Opportunity to discuss the presentation will be given randomly to four students after the seminar.

Attendance: 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. A legitimated reason for absence, as determined by Dr. Zhu, includes school activities, illness requiring medical treatment, death in immediate family, or military obligations.

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

*Freedom in learning.* Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in
matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.