CHEM 290: Seminar  (0.5 credit)  Fall 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, F 10:00-10:50 am, or by appointment.

Textbook: None

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. CHEM290 is a highly focused and topical course on scientific presentation 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 participation in class. Participation in class discussion includes the attendance and questions you formulate on the seminars you attend. The students 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. 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, (Zhengtao 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.