Chemical Literature Syllabus  
Spring 2012 CHEM 370

Thursday 12:00PM - 12:50PM  
Chem-Chem Engr Building, Room 304

Instructor: Dr. Tsvetanka Filipova  
Office hours: Wed 3:00-4:00pm, Thu 1:00-2:00pm or by appt.  
Office: C120, 605-394-1698  
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Prerequisites: CHEM 230 or CHEM 332 and CHEM 252.

Catalog Description: (1 credit)
The use of the chemical library. Character of the various chemical journals, dictionaries, reference books, computer literature searching, and other sources of information. Written reports on chemical literature.

Texts

Course Objective:
- To acquaint the student with the major sources of the chemical literature and computerized databases;
- To provide tools/techniques to search thoroughly and efficiently both as students, and as professional chemists;
- To develop an overall approach and philosophy for the use of chemical literature. The information which the student acquires in this course will undoubtedly change with time, and in order to remain current in his/her profession, the graduate chemist will need to continually update and modify this literature information and the methods necessary to effectively access it.

Outcomes: The student who completes this course will be able to:
- Develop a strategy for finding scientific information;
- Conduct an effective information search;
- Distinguish the various types of chemical information sources and to choose appropriate sources to solve specific chemical information problems;
- Become aware of computer-based sources and techniques and learn to perform efficient searches for subjects, authors and substances;
- Learn how to locate chemical and physical properties for substances;
- To understand and know how to use the patent literature.

GRADING AND COURSE POLICIES
There will be no written exams in this course. A grade will be assigned based on the results of the completed weekly assignments (50% of the final grade), the term project (40% of the final grade), and the student presentation (10% of the final grade).
Objective Factors

1. **Term Project (40%).** The student will select a topic to search, as if preparing writing a comprehensive review. The research topic should be broad enough to be interesting and allow the student access to enough information, yet narrow enough to make the research scope reasonable. It should also make use of several (minimum 5) different types of literature resources. The topic should be discussed with and approved by the instructor by February 23rd. To maximize the benefit of this exercise for the student, the topic should be related to ongoing or planned research, or similar work activity. The project must be completed by April 26th. A 8-10 page (at least) synopsis of the information found during the search will be prepared and handed in, as will a complete bibliography. To be certain the student is on track, there will be an interim review of the search strategy, topic breadth, and search results about the middle of March.

2. **Student Presentation (10%).** The student will give a brief no more than 5 minutes presentation describing: why the search topic was selected; the sources used (and why); what the most productive search technique(s) were, and why; how did student build on the sources; how the search could have been improved.

3. **Assignments (50%).** Eight to ten brief assignments will be given. The tasks involve locating specific information in library references, or other tasks which require use of chemical literature. These assignments will be distributed weekly beginning with the second class period. Some assignments may be performed during class time; out-of-class assignments will also be made. Each completed assignment must be returned to the instructor as indicated on the attached schedule. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The grading scale is as follows:

- **A** = 90-100%
- **B** = 80 – 89%
- **C** = 70 – 79%
- **D** = 60 – 69%
- **F** = 0 – 59%

Subjective Factors

**Attendance and Attitude:** Regular attendance and consistent study are student responsibilities and the two factors that contribute most to a successful college experience. Registration for this course implies that student have made a commitment to complete on time all of the work that is assigned and to participate in any in-class exercises and discussions; regular attendance is critical to meet this commitment. Students having excessive absences or showing disrespect for the instructor or fellow students or demonstrating any behavior deemed disruptive to the class may be dropped from the class with a failing grade. If the student must be absent from the class due to a school sponsored event prior notification must be given at least one week in advance. Excused absences will only be granted for things outside of student control; e.g., medical emergencies.

**Electronic Devices Policy.** Please turn off your cell phone before class starts. No text messaging in class. No headphones.

**Withdrawal Deadline:** The last day to drop this class is April 2, 2012.

**ADA Statement**

Students with special needs or requiring special accommodations should contact the instructor, Dr.Tsvetanka Filipova, at 605-394-1698 or Tsvetanka.Filipova@sdsmt.edu) 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.

Final Word

This syllabus outlines how it is planned to present this course. If circumstances warrant, changes may be made and students will be notified by a message to your official SDSM&T e-mail address.