



American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Chemistry



Chemistry 230: Senior Seminar (1 credit)

Course Syllabus
Spring 2013

Dr. Pierre Karam
Room 426 Chem. Ext. 3989
Email: pk03@aub.edu.lb
Office hours: Tuesday 9:30 AM-
11:00AM and Monday 2:30 PM to
4:00 PM

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday, 4 PM Room 101

TEXTBOOKS, READING MATERIALS AND RESSOURCES

There is no specific textbook for this course. The student will be making extensive use of the primary chemical literature. However, following references will certainly be helpful for all of you:

1. The ACS Style Guide: A Manual for Authors and Editors, Janet S. Dodd, ed. (Washington DC: The American Chemical Society), 1997.
2. The art of scientific writing: from student reports to professional publications in chemistry and related fields / Hans F. Ebel, Claus Bliefert, William E. Russey. - Weinheim : Wiley-VCH, c2004, ISBN 3527298290.
3. Communicating in science: writing a scientific paper and speaking at scientific meetings / Vernon Booth. - 2nd ed. Cambridge Cambridgeshire UK : Cambridge University Press, 1993, ISBN: 0521429153.
4. Enjoy writing your science thesis or dissertation!: a step by step guide to planning and writing dissertations and theses for undergraduate and graduate science students / Daniel Holtom & Elizabeth Fisher. London: Imperial College Press, 2006, c1999, ISBN: 1860940900.

COURSE DETAILS

☞ Course Description:

This course is designed to provide undergraduate chemistry students with the theoretical and practical ways to carry out a literature research on specific topics using books, journals, electronic resources and certainly different scientific databases.

☞ Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, student should be familiar with chemical literature and information retrieval. He/she also will be able to develop effective written by organizing material into a paper suitable for publication and present the content of the paper to faculty members and students in a collective presentation showing a high-quality oral communications skills, and professional ethics.

☞ Grading Scheme: (course + laboratory)

Participation	10 %
Selecting your topic	5 %
Quality of the written report	20%
Quality of the oral presentation	20 %
Evidence of scientific knowledge in the written paper	25%
Evidence of scientific knowledge in the oral presentation	20%

Course Outline:

Topics

- Organizational meeting + Course Introduction
- What is Your Project Topic? How to look for a project
- Nature of Chemistry Literature - Guides to Chemical Information Sources and Databases
- General guidelines for writing proposals, reports, giving a symposium talk, etc...
- The Publication Process
- Writing an outline
- Writing an introduction
- Writing your review
- Writing your conclusion
- How to a give an oral presentation

Important Dates:

Date	Time	Deadline for
Feb 18	5:00 PM	Selecting your topic
March 4	5:00 PM	Outline
March 11	5:00 PM	Introduction
March 25	5:00 PM	Body
April 1	5:00 PM	Final written report

Missing any deadline will result in -5 for each 24 hour passed the specified time.

Presentation dates:

Date	Presenters
April 29	Karim, Ali, Huda, Roy
April 22	Nourhane, Mohammad, Mona, Hassan
April 15	Ramy, Weam, Zeinab, Mariane
April 8	Racha, Ghida, Nader D., Nader S.

Important information:

- Your written report should not be less than 20 pages (font size 12, double space) and no more than 25 pages.
- Your oral presentation will be 15 minutes long; 12 minutes to present your review paper and 3 minutes for questions.

Academic Integrity and Student's Responsibility:

- Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Cheating is a violation of the University's academic regulations and is subject to disciplinary action.
- Cheating on exams and/or copying of assignments will result in a grade of zero for that exam/assignment.
- Students should familiarize themselves with the details of the University's Student Code-of-Conduct as published in the annual Student Handbook.

- During lectures students are expected to be quiet and well behaved. Students deemed to be disruptive will be asked to leave.
- Frequent observed misconduct in the classroom subjects the student to disciplinary action and the loss of grades allocated to “Participation”.
- Students are held responsible for all announcements in class and on Moodle, whether they are present or absent for that day.