

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eugene Wagner
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OBJECTIVES OF COURSE:

Select a topic in physical chemistry and write an in depth article on the subject. The purpose is to give students an opportunity to explore a topic of their choice and create a "journal ready" manuscript.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum 15 pages (not including title page, references and appendices) double spaced with 1 in margins. Citations should follow either The Journal of Physical Chemistry format or APA style format. Heading format will vary depending on the nature of your paper. As a start, use headings similar to that found in J. Phys. Chem. review and research articles. Tables and figures should be referred to in the text and be attached at the end of the paper as appendices. The title page should include the title, author, institutional affiliation, email and a 250 word abstract.

WORK SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES: Failure to meet any of the deadlines outlined below may result in an incomplete grade (G) for the semester. However, you have up to a year to complete the assignment. The G grade will then be replaced with the appropriate letter grade. All meetings are by appointment and scheduled as need. Please email me soon with a list of possible times to meet for the first meeting by Sept. 9th.

- Sept 19 - Topic ideas due by email. Include a few references so that I can investigate the topic a bit more to determine appropriateness for this course.
- Sept 24 - Final approval of topic
- Oct 6 - Comprehensive outline of paper due with references in proper format for paper
- Oct 27 - First draft manuscript due. Submit an electronic copy (through email). The manuscript should mimic a manuscript that you would submit to a journal for review. It should be done to the best of your ability. When I review the manuscript, I will act as a journal review, focusing more on the topic, discussion and analysis. Editing is a smaller issue at this point. However, if your writing style is so poor that the manuscript is not easily "reviewable", I will return it un-reviewed and ask that you fix the writing mechanics before submitting again.
- Nov 23 - Second draft of manuscript due. At this point the manuscript should be nearly flawless and ready for "publication". The hope is that only minor editing will be needed at this point.
- Dec 8 - Third draft of manuscript (if necessary). At this point the paper is exceptionally well organized and written. It incorporates a great deal of depth and analysis on a specific subject. It is something you are proud of and is of high enough quality to be submitted to an actual journal.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students are responsible for knowing and observing the University of Pittsburgh Code of Student Academic Integrity, which forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, *plagiarism*, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Academic evaluation in this course includes a judgment that the student's work is free from dishonesty. Students who are suspected of violating this code will be required to participate in the legal procedural process as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. ***Your work will be checked by plagiarism software.***

GRADING SCHEME & SCALE:

Initial Meeting by Sept 4 th	5 points	A-,A,A+	85% ↑
Final Topic approved by Sept 24 th	5 points	B-,B,B+	75 – 84%
Comprehensive outline by Oct 6 th	20 points	C-,C,C+	65 – 74%
First Draft by Oct 27 th	30 points	D-,D,D+	55 – 64%
Second Draft by Nov 23 rd	30 points	F	55% ↓
Third Draft by Dec 8 th	10 points	Exact "+" & "-" letter grade assignments will be determined by Dr. Wagner	
Total	100 points		