

CHEM1431: Physical Chemistry Writing Practicum SPRING 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eugene Wagner

OFFICE: Chevron 107E

OFFICE HOURS: by appt.

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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 January 24th.

- January 24 - 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.
- February 7 - Final approval of topic
- February 22 - Comprehensive outline of paper due with references in proper format for paper
- March 10 - 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.
- April 6 - 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.
- April 17- 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 Jan 24 th	5 points	A-,A,A+	85% ↑
Final Topic approved by Feb. 7 th	5 points	B-,B,B+	75 – 84%
Comprehensive outline by Feb 22 nd	20 points	C-,C,C+	65 – 74%
First Draft by March 10 th	30 points	D-,D,D+	55 – 64%
Second Draft by April 6 th	30 points	F	55% ↓
Third Draft by April 17 th	10 points		
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Total	100 points		

Exact “+” & “-” letter grade assignments will be determined by Dr. Wagner