Chemical Communication (CHEM 6940/8940) – Syllabus
Fall (August 27 to December 7, 2018)
(No class on Thursday October 11 nor on November 22, 2018)

Instructor: Dr. Dean M. Giolando  
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Office: WO 2271  
Office hours: TBA, by appointment

Class Location: BO 2049  
Class day and time: R 12:30-2:20 pm

COURSE/CATALOG DESCRIPTION
Instruction on different modes of scientific communication: written communication, oral presentation, and research proposals, to enable students to think and converse competently in the language of science. Two credit hours lecture and discussion per week.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability (ADA). The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read The University’s Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance.
(https://www.utoledo.edu/policies/administration/diversity/pdfs/3364_50_03_Nondiscrimination_o.pdf)

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the Student Disability Services Office.
(http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/student-disability-services/)

ACADEMIC POLICIES
Academic Dishonesty: You are urged to refer to the university’s policy on Academic Dishonesty in the university catalogue. Violation of this policy can result in a course grade of F with additional university sanctions possible.
(http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/dishonesty.html)

Students not able to take an examination or quiz at the scheduled time due to an irresolvable conflict with a major responsibility must provide some written documentation to verify the conflict. This situation may occur for students on official university business. The examination or quiz will be given at another arranged time before the scheduled test date.
Students who miss an examination or quiz due to illness, car accident or similar extreme circumstance should inform their instructor of their difficulties as soon as possible. These difficulties must also be documented by a physician’s note, an accident report, etc. An email to your instructor and a telephone call within 24 hours is expected. Students must complete an Absence Report Form (obtained from the chemistry office, BO 2022). Documentation supporting your excuse must be attached to the form. In all other circumstances a missed examination or quiz will result in a grade of zero points.

**Course material:**
There are no required textbooks or other materials. Readings for each class will be handed out in class and/or posted or linked to on the course Blackboard page. Among the resources used in the class will be the following:

  [http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841239999](http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841239999)


If you wish to obtain additional resources to help improve your skills as a writer or to use as references, there are many excellent books that help writers improve. Here are a few (all relatively inexpensive and available at most bookstores or libraries):


**INCOMPLETE.**

Is given only to those students who have completed almost all of the course requirements, and only for an acceptable reason.

**ATTENDANCE.**

During the term the instructor will be asked to report on student attendance and this can affect your financial aid, so be certain to attend all classes. Hand-in to the instructor any information related to your missing classes. You will remain enrolled in the course regardless of your attendance.
COURSE POINTS (Theme: apply acid/base chemistry)

Attendance, preparation and class participation 10%
Writing assignment 1: Short narrative essay – summary of topic 10%
Literature search assignment – summary of ten research articles 5%
Analysis of Fall Colloquium – describe good and bad styles 5%
Writing assignment 2: Analysis of paper from the primary research literature. 20%
Writing assignment 3: Mock research proposal – see Dissertation Proposal description
  Draft 10%
  Peer review of another student’s draft 5%
  Revision 15%
15-20 minute oral presentation – defense of your topic 20%

GRADE SCALE

(A) 100-88 % (A-) 87-85 %
(B+) 84-82 % (B) 81-76 % (B-) 75-73 %
(C+) 72-70 % (C) 69-63 % (C-) 62-60 %
(D+) 59-57 % (D) 56-53 % (D-) 52-50 %
(F) < 49 %

Date  Topic  Major Assignment Due Dates
8/30  Course Overview  
       Types of Scientific Communication  
9/6  The Philosophy and Methods of Science  
9/13  The Chemical Literature and Scientific Databases  
      Guest Lecturer: Wade Lee, Science Librarian, Carlson Library  
9/20  The Chemical Literature and Scientific Databases  
      Guest Lecturer: Wade Lee, Science Librarian, Carlson Library  
      Writing assignment #1 due  
9/27  Review of literature searches  
10/4  Student Outline Oral Presentations  
      A single slide, bullet points of outline for mock research proposal.  
      Similar to outline slide used by many students when they give a seminar.  
10/11  No Class – Fall Break  
10/18  Writing A Research Paper  
10/25  Writing A Research Proposal  
      Writing assignment #2 due  
11/1  Giving an Oral Presentation  
11/8  Ethical Issues in Science  
11/15  Student Oral Presentations  
11/22  No Class – Thanksgiving  
      Draft of writing assignment #3 due  
11/29  Student Oral Presentations  
12/6  Student Oral Presentations  
      Peer review due Tue 11/22  
      Revised writing assignment #3