The major project for Chemistry Seminar involves the oral and written presentation of a chemistry topic found in the current primary literature. While it may initially seem as though you will purely review the literature, you are also expected to present background material, interpret current findings and make connections that may not be initially apparent. You will also need to follow the strategy discussed in class – “three points, three times”.

**Topic / References:** Very general topics for your presentations will be provided. The topics provided are most likely too broad for an effective presentation and so you will need to read a few review articles or monographs on the general topic and narrow down your focus to a much more specific topic. The topic will *probably* be specific enough if a Scifinder search yields less than 50 hits, 10 to 12 of which are primary peer reviewed articles presenting original research. Once you have narrowed your focus you will need to decide what your three points will be. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, so be sure to reference any idea or concept that cannot be found in at least three sources. At least *six references to the primary peer reviewed literature* must be used (perhaps two per point). *Three of these six references must be within the past five years.* Additional references are encouraged, but significant care should be taken to ensure that the information is correct (especially internet references).

**Expectations:** Focus your research on the basic underlying chemistry of your specific topic. Analyze the presented concepts, results, discussion, experimental conditions, and conclusions. Be critical in your approach. Ask many questions about validity, appropriateness, reasonability, and importance. Make a strong connection to the fundamental principles you have learned in your chemistry coursework. Realize that following your oral presentation, you will be asked questions focused on your critical and detailed analysis of the chemistry of your specific topic.

**Background / Audience:** Assume that your audience has successfully completed Fundamentals of Chemistry I and II as well as Organic Chemistry I and II. So, do not rehash any of the concepts covered in these courses unless it is an integral part of the presentation.

**Outline/Abstract:**
- An outline and abstract of your presentation is due as assigned on the class schedule. The outline should clearly show a proposed title, an introduction section, each of the three major points fleshed out, and a conclusion section. A bibliography should also be included. You will meet with Dr. Schmidt to discuss your outline and abstract when it is turned in.

- As you spend more time with the material, you may wish to change your presentation from the outline turned in. For that matter the written paper may be somewhat different than either the outline or oral presentation.
Oral Presentation:
- A title and abstract for your presentation and a short resume is due via E-mail by the Friday preceding your presentation. Dr. Schmidt will work with the Chemistry Department Secretary and have announcements posted around Stoffer Hall including the title and abstract that you will have provided (without editing). The short resume will be forwarded to the Presentation Host and be used for your introduction.

- Your presentation should be 40 to 45 minutes in length giving an additional 5 to 10 minutes for questions for a total of 50 to 55 minutes. Shorter presentations should expect to have more questions asked.

- Presentations will be made in Stoffer 138 which is equipped with a white board, overhead projector, and a computer (WUAD access) with a projector. You can attach your own laptop computer to the projector if you would like. Be sure that your file will work with the version of Powerpoint provided before the day of your presentation. Otherwise, you may be giving your talk using the whiteboard.

- Each member of the class will act as a Presentation Host for one of the other presentations. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
  - helping the presenter setup their presentation,
  - providing water for the presenter,
  - making sure dry erase markers and the laser pointer are in the room and available,
  - introducing the presenter,
  - asking at least one good question after the presentation,
  - thanking the presenter for their excellent presentation, and
  - helping the presenter to take down their presentation.

Written Paper:
- Your paper should be long enough to completely cover the material and not be verbose. Use descriptive headings to outline sections of the paper.

- Include a Title Page with all pertinent information.

- The paper should be formatted for easy reading according to the ACS Style Guide, 3rd edition. Use the equivalent of Times Roman 12 point, 1.5 space, and 1 inch margins. Be sure that the paper is also paginated.

- Endnotes should be used for notes and references and should be annotated by numbering in the text using superscripts. (For example.\(^1\)) Endnotes should be formatted according to the ACS Style Guide, 3rd edition.

revised: 1/18/2016