

CHEMISTRY FRONTIERS (CHE 3500)

WINTER 2008

Instructor:: Dr. Balasingam Murugaverl (VERL)

General:

The class is scheduled from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays at OLIN 103. However, since this is a research course you will work at your own phase (the times are flexible) and the actual work will be carried out at various laboratories in the Mudd building and Olin hall. The schedule of lectures on special topics is attached. Be prompt to all lectures.

Course Overview:

The goal of this course is to provide chemistry and biochemistry majors with the essential skills for scientific research, and to prepare them for what awaits them in the real world of science. All the theories and concepts that the students learn in the lectures originated from attempts to explain experimental observations. This problem solving aspect of science demands a higher level of thinking and the purpose of this course is to stimulate that. The course is designed to provide the students with hands on approach to all aspects of the Scientific Method, without dwelling too much on theory. Students will work in teams on a goal-oriented project that encompasses all disciplines of chemistry. The lecture portion of the course will include literature searching, experimental design and planning, technical writing, and oral presentation.

Course Requirements:

Attendance - since this is a research oriented course, attendance is critical and a significant portion of the grade will be based on attendance. Students are expected to be **prompt to all scheduled lectures**.

Reports - the lab reports (including the final report) will be written in an ACS journal article format (which will be selected on the first day of class). The reports are due by the dates scheduled. Reports will be evaluated on its adherence to style, presentation of background information, and knowledge of the subject material. **Late reports will not be accepted, and will cost one grade point per delinquent report.**

Oral Presentation - on the final week of the quarter, each student will give a 15 minute oral presentation discussing the results of a segment of study done by his or her team. Individuals will be evaluated on the content of their presentation, comprehension of the research topic, and presentation skills.

Grading:

Attendance	250 points
Reports	500 points
Oral	250 points

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week of Jan. 7	<u>Introduction to the course</u> - project goals and course expectations - Dr. Murugaverl (1/7/08)
Week of Jan. 14	<u>Proteins and peptides</u> – Dr. Sheref Mansy (1/14/08)
Week of Jan. 22	<u>Introduction to DNA</u> – Dr. Sheldon York (1/22/08) <u>Discussion</u> - literature review
Week of Jan 28	<u>Report Writing and Writing Skills</u> - Dr. Hornback (1/28/08) <u>FIRST REPORT due on February 4 by 5:00 pm.</u>
Week of Feb. 4	<u>Introduction to Chromatographic Techniques</u> – Dr. Keith Miller (2/4/08)
Week of Feb.11	<u>Introduction to Mass Spectrometry</u> - Dr. B. Murugaverl (2/11/08)
Week of Feb.18	<u>SECOND REPORT due by February 22 by 5:00 pm.</u>
Week of Feb. 25	<u>Oral Presentation Skills</u> - Dr. Stedman (2/25/08)
Week of March 10	Student Oral Presentation: (10 th and 11 th of March) <i>15 minutes per student.</i> Panel: Dr. L. Berliner, Dr. S. Mansy, Dr. D. Smith, Dr. J. Hornback, Dr. A. Kutateladze, Dr. B. Murugaverl, Dr. K. Miller, Dr. D. Stedman, Dr. T. Wells, Dr. Sandy Eaton. <u>FINAL REPORT due by March 15, 2008 by 4:00 pm</u>

Important:

Students are responsible for:

1. Keeping their work area clean and safe.
2. Proper storage of chemicals (i.e. labeling, container etc).
3. Proper handling of waste (i.e. labeling, container etc).
4. Return and re-shelving of **all items** used in the project, clean and in working order.

Remember! **Failure** to respect the above requests may be **very costly to your grade.**