Syllabus: CHEM 4940 (1 credit hour)
Chemistry Seminar, Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. LeGrande M. Slaughter (legrande.slaughter@unt.edu); office phone: 940-565-4350
Seminar time & location: Unless otherwise announced, Fridays 3:30 – 4:20 PM, CHEM 109

Spring 2020 Seminar Schedule (subject to amendment and/or revision)

1/10† Organic Faculty Candidate (Host: Wang)
Unravelling Cytochalasan Biosynthesis in Blast Fungi: Elucidating the Structure of the Cryptic Avirulence Signaling Molecule
†Special pre-semester Friday seminar to be held in CHEM 106, 3:30 PM

1/13* Organic Faculty Candidate (Host: Wang)
Oxoammonium Salts as Selective Oxidants, and a Ring Expansion Approach to Natural Products Containing a Nitrogen–Oxygen Bond
*Special Monday seminar to be held in CHEM 109, 3:30 PM

1/17 Organic Faculty Candidate (Host: Wang)
Complexity in Catalysis: Mechanisms, Noncovalent Interactions, and Natural Product Modifications

1/24 Chemistry Education Faculty Candidate (Host: Chabay)
College Students Teaching and Learning Chemistry: Investigating Cognitive and Affective Experiences across Instructional Environments

1/31 Chemistry Education Faculty Candidate (Host: Chabay)
Scaffolding Students' Reasoning and Assessing Students' Understanding

2/7 Open/To Be Announced

2/14 Possible Welch Chair Candidate (Host: Cundari)
Title TBA

2/21 Possible Welch Chair Candidate (Host: Cundari)
Title TBA

2/28 Possible Welch Chair Candidate (Host: Cundari)
Title TBA

Rigoberto Hernandez, Johns Hopkins University – Davidson Lecturer (Hosts: Cisneros/Cundari)
3/5§ (Lecture 1) Transition State Theory for Chemical Reactions in Complex Environments
3/5‡ (Lecture 2) Advancing Science through Diversity
3/6 (Lecture 3) Taking Sustainable Nanoparticles to the Mesoscale through Spiral Feedback
§special Thursday seminar in GAB 104, 10:30 a.m. ‡special Thursday seminar in Union 382, 3:00 p.m.

3/13 Spring Break – No Seminar

3/20 Corporate Relations Day
No Seminar – Student participation in other activities expected (TBA)

3/27 Elizabeth Papish, University of Alabama (Hosts: Slaughter/Cundari)
Title TBA

4/3 Xiaowei Teng, University of New Hampshire (Host: Yan)
Understanding the Atomic Interactions between Transition Metal Oxide and Electrolyte in Aqueous Electrochemical Energy Storage
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Spring 2020 Seminar Schedule (continued)

4/7# Masahiro Murakami, Kyoto University (Host: Slaughter)
Utilization of Energy of Photons for Organic Synthesis
#Special Tuesday seminar to be held in GAB 105, 3:30 PM

4/10 No Seminar

4/17 Sergei Vinogradov, University of Pennsylvania (Host: Wang)
Title TBA

4/24 Graduate Student Research Day – 3rd Year Talks (Schedule and rooms to be announced)

5/1 Reading Day – No Seminar

Course and Learning Objectives
The primary objective of this course is to provide advanced chemistry majors with knowledge of topical areas of chemistry research through seminars given by prominent researchers from the chemical community. A second objective is to foster critical thinking and open exchange of ideas with scientists from outside UNT.

Credit Toward a Chemistry Major
CHEM 4940 is not a core required course for Chemistry majors. However, it may be counted as part of your 42 required credit hours of advanced (3000- and 4000-level) coursework.

Grading
This course is graded on a Pass/No Pass basis only. The sole criterion for passing the course will be attendance/participation.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend and participate in each scheduled seminar. Attendance will be recorded by card swipe using your student ID. We will continue to use the paper Attendance Sheets for the first few seminars, in addition to the card swiper, to validate that the system is working. Any absence must be approved by the instructor and must have a valid reason that can be documented. Valid reasons include illness requiring a visit to the doctor, travel to an external conference with advisor’s approval, and religious holidays. Personal travel and social events are not valid reasons for missing seminar. You are allowed a total of two absences during the semester. More than two absences will lead to a grade of No Pass for the course.

Participation
You are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the question-and-answer period (typically, 10-15 minutes at the end of the seminar). Because not everyone will have an opportunity to do so, the instructor will provide a slip of paper to each student at the beginning of each seminar on which you should write a question to the speaker related to the seminar topic. The instructor may select some of these questions for the speaker to answer. Note that these slips form part of your attendance/participation record. You must turn in a filled question slip in order to receive credit for attending the seminar.
**Special Seminars**

Five special seminars outside the regularly scheduled class time are currently planned. These include a Friday seminar the week before classes start, on January 10th; a Monday seminar on January 13th; two Thursday seminars on March 5th as part of the Davidson Lecture Series; and a Tuesday seminar on April 7th. It is possible that more special seminars will be added. *You are strongly encouraged to attend these special seminars* if there are no conflicts with your class schedule. It is important to have a strong showing of students for these faculty candidates and distinguished scientists, so that we have a vigorous Q&A period and provide a good impression of our department. *As an incentive, attendance of two special seminars will cancel out one absence from a regular Friday seminar.*

**Canceled Seminars**

If the University is closed due to weather or other circumstances, seminar will be cancelled. In the event the seminar is rescheduled, you will be notified by an announcement on the Canvas page (see below) and by email.

**Required Materials**

None. A notebook or electronic device for taking notes is strongly recommended. It is also recommended that you browse recent publications by speakers prior to seminar, especially for speakers whose topics are of interest to you. The instructor may send selected references by email to assist you in this.

**Course Web Page**

Any updates to the seminar schedule will be posted on the Canvas page for CHEM 4940. To access this page, use the following link with your EUID and password: [https://unt.instructure.com/](https://unt.instructure.com/)

**Instructor Office Hours**

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, CHEM 307E, or by appointment