

## Syllabus

Course: CHEM 494/5940 (Chemistry Seminar)

Term: Fall 2025

Instructor: Prof. Tom Cundari ([tomc@unt.edu](mailto:tomc@unt.edu)); phone: 940-369-7753

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

**Unless otherwise noted, seminars are held on  
Thursdays, 3:30–4:20 PM in CHEM 109  
All seminars are free and open to the public**

University of North Texas, Department of Chemistry  
Fall 2025 Seminar Schedule

- 8/21 - Prof. Legrande Slaughter, UNT - State of the Department Address
- 8/28 - Prof. Hao Yan, UNT - Prof. Cundari (host)  
Structure and Mechanism of Light Harvesting and Charge Separation Materials for Photocatalytic Applications
- 9/4 - Prof. Alena Moon, UNT - Prof. Cundari (host)  
TBA
- 9/11 - Dr. John Peters, OU - co-hosting with BDI  
The Mechanistic Determinants of Catalytic Bias in Cofactor-based Enzymatic Oxidation-Reduction Reactions
- 9/18 - Prof. Pengyu Ren, UT - Prof. Valsson (host)  
Understanding and Modeling Molecular Interactions
- 9/25 - Dr. Pilar Cossio, Flatiron Institute - Prof. Valsson (host)  
Probability Distributions using Cryo-electron Microscopy Images
- 10/2 - Prof. Tian Qin, UTSW - Prof. Cui (host)  
Into the Next Dimension: Pharmaceutically Relevant  $sp^3$ -Rich Scaffolds
- 10/9 - Prof. Chris Arnatt, St. Louis U. - Prof. Afosah (host)  
Orphan GPCRs: Untapped Targets for Neuropathic Pain
- 10/16 - Prof. Jacinta Mutambuki, Marquette U. - Prof. Moon (host)  
Incorporating Real-World Contexts into the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum: The Effects on Students' Cognitive and Affective Learning Outcomes
- 10/23 - Prof. Yosuke Kanai, UNC - Prof. Ko

First-Principles Theory Study of Catalyst-Functionalized Photoelectrodes for CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

**10/29 - Special Wednesday Seminar!**

**Prof. Dirk Guldi, FAU-Erlangen - Profs. D'Souza & Wang (host)**  
**Adaptive Light Management**

10/30 - Prof. Huiliang Wang, UT - Prof. Yan (host)  
Developing Non-Invasive Nanoparticle-Based Delivery Strategy for Genetically Targeted Neuromodulation

11/6 - Prof. Jier Huang, BC - Prof. Wang (host)  
Structure and Mechanism of Light Harvesting and Charge Separation Materials for Photocatalytic Applications

11/13 - Safety Seminar – Chris Erickson, Todd Germain

11/20 - Prof. Paul Bagus, UNT - Prof. Cundari (host) - via Zoom  
The Chemistry of Azines, Pyridine, Pyrazine, and Pyrimidine, deduced from their XPS: Combining Theory and Measurement

11/27 - Thanksgiving, no classes

12/4 - Prof. Matteo Dal Perero, EPF de Lausanne - Prof. Petros (host) - via Zoom  
AI Tools for Structural Biology and Molecular Design

**Course Requirements**

- There are no exams; students are expected to attend all seminars unless a significant compelling reason is given (TA conflict, speaking at an external conference, *etc.*).
- If the University cancels classes on the day of a scheduled seminar, then the seminar is canceled.

**Attendance Policy:**

- More than 2 unexcused absences will result in failure.
- Attendance has 2 parts: attendance and submitting a question via the approved method.
- For in-person attendance:
  - Student **MUST** sign one of the attendance sheets that will be placed at the front of the classroom.
- For Zoom attendance:
  - Zoom screen names **MUST** include first and last names, not nicknames or email addresses. This must be done to receive credit for attending.
  - If students call into the Zoom meeting instead of using the Zoom app, they **MUST** email CHEM seminar ([CHEMseminar@unt.edu](mailto:CHEMseminar@unt.edu)) to let us know, along with their phone number for verification purposes.

- Students must attend a combined total of AT LEAST 30 minutes to be marked as “signed in” (even if you have to keep signing in multiple times) from the time that the seminar begins—3:30 PM.
- For submitting a question:
  - For in-person seminars: Students MUST submit a question using one of the question sheets placed at the front of the classroom.
  - For Zoom seminars: Students MUST submit a question via email to CHEM seminar ([CHEMseminar@unt.edu](mailto:CHEMseminar@unt.edu)) within 30 minutes of the end of the seminar or 5 PM, whichever is later.

### **COVID-19 Impact on Attendance**

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for each class. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

### **Additional notes:**

Participants MAY ask questions during the Q&A portion of the seminar.

- For in-person seminars:
  - Students must raise their hand and wait to be called on.
- For Zoom seminars:
  - Preferred Method:
    - Students may type questions in the Zoom CHAT screen at any time and the host or speaker will read the questions.
  - Alternative Method:
    - Unmute yourself and ask your question when the host asks for questions.

See these Engagement Guidelines (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

### **Minimum Technology Requirements**

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Canvas Technical Requirements: <https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

## Technical Assistance

Part of working in an online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

- **UIT Help Desk:** UIT Student Help Desk site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)
- **Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)
- **Phone:** 940-565-2324
- **In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130
- **Walk-In Availability:** 8 PM – 9 PM
- **Telephone Availability:**
  - Sunday: noon-midnight
  - Monday-Thursday: 8 AM – midnight
  - Friday: 8 AM – 8 PM
  - Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM
- **Laptop Checkout:** 8 AM – 7 PM

For additional support, visit Canvas Support: <https://clear.unt.edu/services/lms-support> (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

## UNT POLICIES

### ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

### Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's

conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

### **Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 (November 15-December 3, 2021) of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](mailto:Eagle Connect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

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### **Survivor Advocacy**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES**

### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

**Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

**DISCLAIMER:** The professor of this course reserves the right to alter at any time any of the information presented on this syllabus at his discretion.