Course Syllabus
Chemistry 590
Thesis Writing

Course Description: Organization and writing of thesis based on graduate research.

Number of Credit Hours: 3 semester hours

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites: Prerequisite: CHE 589.

Program Learning Outcomes:
The student will articulate scientific information through oral communication.
The student will articulate scientific information through written communication.
The student will demonstrate ability to integrate knowledge content, laboratory skill, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication skills via participation in research projects.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives: There are no specific general education core curriculum objectives in this course. This course is not a general education core curriculum course.

Course Objective: The student should demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research after graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- read and analyze chemical literature thoughtfully and critically
- analyze experimental results based upon trends in data
- practice the safe use/handling of chemicals and their proper storage
- communicate his/her ideas orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner
- recognize ethical principles in a scientific context.

Outline of Topics (approximate course time):
Variable: dependent on instructor and selected course content.
Instructor: Dr. Michael A. Janusa

Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Email: janusama@sfasu.edu

Phone: (936) 468-1139

Office: 104 Math Building

Place of Meeting: 305 Chem. Bldg.

Student Hours: open

Text and Materials:
Laboratory Notebook and literature pertaining to research topic.
Suggested Text:
Stephen F. Austin State University, Graduate School, Thesis Guide and Forms, http://www2.sfasu.edu/graduate/CurrentStudents/thesisguide.html

COURSE CALENDAR:
Student will conduct an independent research project, write a thesis, and defense the thesis under the direction of the professor. The student will adhere to an agreed timeline between the student and professor.

This course is for 3-9 credits. Students organize and compose their graduate research into a research thesis, seminar slides, and oral defense. Students are expected to work outside of class throughout the semester to conduct literature searches, draft seminar slides (25 minute presentation), and draft a research thesis with the guidance of their research advisor. Students have required academic components and deliverables: written work (seminar slides, research thesis) and oral (seminar). These activities average at a minimum 3 hours of work each week per credit hour.

GRADING POLICY:
Thesis: The student will submit a formal thesis by the end of the semester as guided by the instructor.

Oral defense: The student will conduct a formal thesis oral defense by the end of the semester as guided by the instructor.

Method of Evaluation: Grading scale will consist of the following:
  Thesis - 50 points
  Oral defense - 50 points

  A: 100-90 points, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: < 60
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Student must adhere to the agreed upon timeline set by agreement with the professor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1):
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

Any student found cheating will be subject to the penalties as stated in the Student Code of Conduct handbook (http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf); including but not limited to a score of zero on exam, expulsion from the class or expulsion from the University.

WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (A-54):
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.