Instructor/Coordinator: Associate Chair (Graduate)

Scheduling: Scheduling preference will be given to those students who have research or teaching commitments that conflict with the 9657/8 schedule. MSc students enrolled in the Chem 9657 stream will normally be slated to deliver their seminars in the first term. MSc presentations will be scheduled for 15 - 20 minutes, with a 5 minute question period to follow. TWO MSc presentations will be scheduled back to back in the same seminar slot.

PhD students enrolled in the 9658 stream will be expected to deliver a 30 - 35 minute seminar followed by an approximate 10 minute question period. Doctoral students will be scheduled immediately following the completion of MSc level lectures.

Weight: 0.5

Course objectives:

• To study and critically appraise a research topic of current interest.
• To explain the topic in the form of a public seminar including a sufficient amount of technical detail appropriate for a general (interdisciplinary) audience; the emphasis should be on depth and clarity rather than on the amount of material.
• To acquire confidence in public speaking, dealing with verbal questions and peer critique.
• To develop an appreciation for the challenges of scientific communication and breadth of chemical research.
• To learn how to evaluate public presentations by peers.
• To strengthen various soft skills: critical analysis of data, time management, ability to ask questions, etc.

Description

Seminars are to be designed to inform the audience about a specific research area/topic. The information should be communicated with a general chemical audience in mind so that they are able to understand the material. A good guideline is to imagine you are presenting to an undergraduate chemistry class in the second term of their second year.

Students slated to deliver their presentation in the coming academic year are to attend a mandatory Chem 9657/9658 organizational meeting, which will be scheduled when classes officially begin. Students are encouraged to remember that quality is better than quantity. Selecting one or two publications of current interest and fully explaining the underlying theory(ies), results and conclusions is much more effective than giving a loose description of a larger number of papers.

Topic selection

Topic selection and lecture requirements criteria for students in the MSc or PhD program are
not identical. Please make sure you adhere to the appropriate guidelines. Approval of the topic/seminar plan is to be confirmed by your committee either by signing the topic approval form, or by a confirmation email from your committee. Topic approvals must be forwarded to the Graduate Chair no later than 8 weeks prior to your scheduled seminar date.

MSc Students
Topics should be related to the student’s research area. Students are expected to select one or two key references that are critical to understanding the foundational chemistry of their thesis. The papers cannot be review articles. Students are to draft a one-page summary (2.5 cm margins; Times Roman 12 pt. font) of the papers and describe how they relate to the student’s research. A well drafted abstract for the seminar is to be included along with the topic approval form. Topics are not to have been presented within the last two years. This document should be sent to the supervisory committee two weeks before sending the topic and lecture title to the Grad Chair (see topic selection above), i.e. 10 weeks before the seminar date.

PhD Students
Topics are to be unrelated to the students’ research area and should be discussed in detail with their supervisors prior to seeking approval from their supervisory committee. Once a suitable topic has been identified with input from the supervisor, students are to draft a one page summary of the topic and an additional one page summary of their current research (2.5 cm margins; Times Roman 12 pt. font). These documents as well as a well drafted abstract for the seminar are to be included with the topic approval form. This document should be sent to the supervisory committee two weeks before sending the topic and lecture title to the Grad Chair (see topic selection above), i.e. 10 weeks before the seminar date. Key reference material is to come from the primary literature (not review articles) and the topic choices should not have been presented in the last two years.

Evaluation
Students will be assigned a PASS or FAIL grade on their transcript, which will be determined by the students supervisory committee who will be in attendance for the seminar. Students will be given comprehensive feedback by way of written comments and a face to face debriefing about their seminar with their committee. Faculty members will complete the grading rubric (attached) with grade for the seminar to be assigned by each faculty member attending the lecture. Graduate Students in attendance will also provide feedback for each seminar that they attend using the same rubric and the information will be compiled by way of scantron forms. Graduate students in attendance are also encouraged to provide written feedback if they so choose. Copies of all faculty grading forms and any student grade forms with comments will be passed along to the presenter.

The grade will not be posted to the student’s transcript but will be used to determine the ultimate winners of the Lipson-Baines Awards.

Notification of Seminar:
One week prior to the seminar, the student will circulate his/her abstract and bibliography by
email to the department.

**Attendance:**
Students in a graduate program at Western must obtain some breadth with respect to their discipline to successfully complete their degree programs. Part of this breadth requirement is achieved by regular attendance at scientific seminar programs or colloquia. To obtain credit in Chem 9658, students must obtain a 65% attendance rate (based on the number of 9658 seminars in the academic year) from the combined total of both Chemistry 9658, Departmental Seminars delivered by visiting speakers and MSc/PhD defense lectures. This attendance requirement will be maintained **up to and including** the year they present their own 9658 seminar. If the attendance requirement is not met, a FAIL will be assigned and students will be required to repeat the seminar requirement before successful completion of the graduate program. If students are attending Departmental Seminars/Colloquia in other departments/Faculties, these can be counted towards attendance requirements, but attendance at these seminars must be verified. Students will notify the Graduate Chair (cc’d to the graduate program administrator) in advance when attending a seminar outside the Departmental Seminars/Colloquia.

Graduate students whose primary location of research is off the main campus, can be accommodated through a video connection for the seminar, with permission of the course coordinator.

Each graduate student must present one Chem 9657/9658 seminar to the department during their studies. The requirement must be met before submission of the thesis. Under normal circumstances, the 9657/9658 seminar will be done in year two of the M.Sc. program, in year three of a direct entry Ph.D., and for those who transferred into the Ph.D. program after their first year report, they will present their seminar in their 3rd year of studies after initial registration in the graduate program (i.e. their 3rd year of graduate studies).

**Plagiarism:**
“Plagiarism means using another’s work without giving credit. You must put others’ words in quotation marks and cite your source(s) and you must give citations when using others’ ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words.”

In the context of a literature review presentation, you are discouraged from using material from a previous review or paper verbatim. For example, it is better to redraw reaction schemes than to “cut-and-paste” them, and it is better to write text in your own words. If you do use “cut-and-paste” you must put text in quotation marks and give the source for any graphics. In the context of C9658Y, it is unacceptable to base your presentation on a previous review. There may be reviews in the broad area, but your presentation should be based mostly on recent primary literature. It is recommended to avoid topics that have been the subject of recent reviews unless there are mitigating circumstances. If there are potential problems of this kind, it is your responsibility to draw the attention of your committee members to the issue before the topic is approved. If plagiarism is detected at a later stage, it will be grounds for failure of the presentation.
Notes on Academic Honesty:
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:


The required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)

Graduate Course Health and Wellness Insert for Graduate Course Outlines
As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at:
http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.

The Lipson Baines Award
Former Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and an advocate, leader, and life-long supporter of Western University, Rob Lipson established the Lipson-Baines Award in Chemistry. The award will be given annually to two full-time Masters or Doctoral students in Chemistry who have achieved the highest marks in the Chemistry 9658 “Seminar” course. Rob Lipson established the award in appreciation of what he considers to be one of the finest Chemistry departments in Canada. The scholarship also honors his lasting friendship with Professor Kim M. Baines, and acknowledges the contributions she made as Chair from 2005-2014.

For more than a quarter of a century Lipson and Baines, through their respective research and management efforts, catalyzed growth, research productivity and training excellence in the Department of Chemistry. The Lipson-Baines Award will serve to further encourage excellence among Western Chemistry graduates and is an enduring reminder of the devotion of Western faculty to their students.
Student name:______________________________________  Faculty Initials:_______

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good Job!</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation: Overall.</strong> Interesting topic, appropriate length, good story, effective handling of the material and demonstration of main concepts.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation: Scientific Content.</strong> Appropriate Breadth and Depth, right level of the discussion for the audience, chemistry content. All main concepts introduced and properly discussed. Broader research context provided.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation: Technical-1.</strong> Structure, Organization, consistent, legible, good use of colour, uncluttered slides, proper use of literature, proper references</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation: Technical-2.</strong> Figures/plots easy to see and clearly explained. Info is relevant. Technical jargon minimized. Appropriate use of multimedia.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery: Speaker:</strong> Presented with confidence. Good eye contact, Posture, Body language, laser pointer use. Stimulated audience attention</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery: Oration.</strong> Volume, tempo, flow, enthusiasm, transitions, articulation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation: Summary.</strong> Concise and Scientifically Sound conclusions, analysis of goals, hypotheses, results, limitations, future work. Take home message.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Comprehension.</strong> Questions answered with confidence/clarity. Good understanding of the topic concepts and broader context.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation: Comprehension.</strong> Good understanding of the topic was evident. Topic well explained. Critical assessment of the scientific content was present.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overall impression of the seminar.</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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Chem 9657/9658 Topic Approval Form

Student Name:______________________________________

Date:______________________________________________

Presentation Date: ____________________________  Presentation Type: __ 9657 __9658

Topic approvals should be granted provided the students have met the requirements in the Chem 9657/9658 Course outline:

(http://www.uwo.ca/chem/graduate/course_information/index.htm)

I have included a proposed title.                           Yes ____    No____

A one page summary of the topic is included.              Yes____    No____

A one page description of my research is included.       Yes____    No____

A draft of my abstract is included (with key references). Yes____    No____

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor:</td>
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<td>Departmental Examiner #1:</td>
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<td>Departmental Examiner #2:</td>
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<td>Supervisory Committee member:</td>
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<td>Associate Chair (Graduate):</td>
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