

CHM1390Y POLYMERS AND MATERIALS SEMINAR 2017 - 2018

Course Coordinator:

Prof. Mitch Winnik, email: mwinnik@chem.utoronto.ca

“Polymers and materials” covers a very wide range of subjects. It is very likely that some or many of the students in the audience (and some of the faculty) will be unfamiliar with the topic that you are presenting. Your main task as a seminar speaker is to tell the audience why your topic is important. Give some general and specific background. Tell the audience why you are interested in the topic. Of course you should present some details, but your goal is to be a teacher: try to ensure that people in the audience will learn something about your topic and remember something about your talk after they leave the seminar.

Course Description and Requirements (plan on 5 min of questions after each talk)

Here are the three seminars students give in the PhD program:

Year 1: Off-topic/On-topic literature seminar 20 minutes

Year 2: Research seminar 20 minutes

Year 4: Final research seminar 30 minutes

Year 1 literature seminar: The first seminar is based upon papers published in the literature. "Off-topic" means completely unrelated to your own research project. "On-topic" means background literature related to your research. Here you should choose papers published by other research groups in this area. You should not present past or current research from your own research group. PhD students can choose the "On-topic" option for their first seminar presentation. [Students usually describe 2, and possibly 3, related papers from the literature. You should give an overview indicating why this field is important. Indicate what you find interesting or attractive about this area. Students who give an “on-topic” seminar can use their final slide to talk about their own proposed research.]

Masters students need to present only one seminar: the Off-topic seminar or a research presentation of 30 minutes.

Year 2 research seminar: This is a 20-min talk in which you should introduce your research topic, explain why it is important and why you like this topic. Then you can present your results and tell the audience about your plans for future research. [We understand that some research topics take more time than others to generate significant new results. If you have relatively few results, focus on why the topic area is important. If you have many results, please do not try to overwhelm the audience with everything that you have done. Focus on what is important.]

Year 4 research seminar: This is a 30-min talk in which you should introduce your research topic, explain why it is important and why you like this topic. Then you can present your results. Tell the audience about your plans for completing the research in order to write your thesis. Research projects evolve in many different ways. Some students will have published 3 or 4 or more papers at the time of the seminar. Please do not try to tell us everything that you have accomplished. You can summarize what you have done, but then pick a couple of topics that are of current interest to you. Give enough details that the general audience can understand your contribution to the project.

Some students will have encountered significant difficulties in carrying out their research, and progress has been slow. Here one has to focus on the concept and objectives of the research. Try to tell us about the challenges without bogging the audience down in a lot of technical details. Some paths lead into a blind alley. That is what research is about. Tell us what worked and what did not work, and then tell us your plans for the future.

Course Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on a pass or fail basis. This evaluation is determined based on student participation in seminars. All graduate students are required to attend seminars regularly and ask questions. The course coordinator will monitor attendance and participation by graduate students.

Schedule: Fall term 2017. Thursdays 5 – 7 PM Davenport East Seminar Room

Fall 2017	Polymers and Materials					Thursdays 5 to 7 PM	
	Student name	Supervisor	Degree	Year	Seminar		
Sep 21	Jerry Liu	Winnik	PhD	2	Research presentation		
	Young Feng Li	Ozin	PhD	4	Research presentation		
	Joe Manion	Seferos	PhD	4	Research presentation		
Oct 19	Dylan Glancy	Chan	PhD	4	Research presentation		
	Megan Roberts	Winnik	PhD	2	Research presentation		
	Elizabeth Prince	Kumacheva	PhD	2	Research presentation		
Nov 16	Elizabeth Galati	Kumacheva	PhD	4	Research presentation		
	Yefang Zhang	Winnik	PhD	2	Research presentation		
	Huachen Tao	Kumacheva	PhD	1	Literature		
	Nimrat Obhi	Seferos	PhD	4	Research presentation		
Dec 7	Elsa Lu	Winnik	PhD	4	Research presentation		
	Johnny Zhang	Chan	PhD	2	Research presentation		
	Susan Cheng	Seferos	PhD	2	Research presentation		
	Moien Alizadehgiashi	Kumacheva	PhD	3	Research presentation		