

CHM1090Y Organic Chemistry Seminar (Organic Synthesis Stream)
Course Outline
2021–2022

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Course Description: The organic synthesis seminar series provides graduate students with the opportunity to develop their presentation and communication skills, and to learn about topics of active research in the organic chemistry field. Ph.D. students will generally give seminars in Year 2 and Year 4 of the program, as outlined below.

Year 2: Students in Year 2 are to present a seminar on a topic that is unrelated to their own research project. This should be presented at a level that is appropriate to the audience (students who have taken advanced undergraduate courses in organic chemistry). It should include a discussion of why this field is important and what is interesting / attractive about this area. Look for opportunities to teach the audience – for example, about a new mode of reactivity or technique, or an emerging challenge for the field. From this perspective, giving a large number of examples without detailed analysis is to be avoided. It is understood that students do not just pick a review article and summarize its contents. Instead, one needs to demonstrate deep knowledge of the topic and be fluent in the original research contributions that define the field of interest.

Year 4: Students in Year 4 are to present a seminar on their graduate research. As described above, this should be presented at a level that is appropriate to the audience, and should include a discussion of the relevant background as well as the importance / significance of the work. Speakers should aim to highlight problems and how they were overcome, and to discuss the thought process underlying their experiments whenever possible. Again, presenting large amounts of data (optimization tables, substrate scope tables) without analysis or interpretation should be avoided.

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