CHM1090Y Organic Chemistry Seminar (Organic Synthesis Stream)
Course Outline
2023–2024

Course Co-ordinator: Prof. Andrei K. Yudin, e-mail: andrei.yudin@utoronto.ca

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 field of organic chemistry. 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. It is also important to ensure that the area of research presented in this seminar is substantially different from the student's own research.

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. Questions from the audience will be noted at the evaluation stage and bonus marks are likely to be given for particularly insightful questions.

The following criteria will be used at the evaluation stage:

- preparation, content, and organization
- introduction and context of research
- student's understanding of material
- description of methods and results
- presentation skills (includes audience interaction, oration)
- slide design
- presentation structure
- responses to questions

COURSE POLICIES

Each member of this course is expected to maintain a:

(i) professional and respectful attitude during all course activities, including classes, laboratories, tutorials, and other online activities.

(ii) personal calendar/schedule/organizer to ensure that all course activities are completed, and due dates are met.

(iii) collection of notes recorded independently based on concepts covered in course activities (students registered with Accessibility Services requiring a class note-taker will have access to this accommodation)

(iv) familiarity with the university policy on Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. The **CHM1090Y** Teaching team will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and we wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment, and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to the staff in our Equity Offices.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SUPPORT

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/).

COPYRIGHT

If a student wishes to copy or reproduce class presentations, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely

prohibited. More information regarding this is available here: https://teaching.utoronto.ca/ed-tech/audio-video/copyrightconsiderations/

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility: if you require accommodations for a disability, or have any other accessibility concerns about the course, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Following the University's policies, reasonable accommodations will be made for students who observe religious holy days that coincide with the due date/time of an assignment, tutorial, class or laboratory session. Students must inform the instructor before the session/assignment date to arrange accommodations.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES & SUPPORT

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support:

- School of Graduate Studies' Policies and Guidelines

- Full library service and resources on conducting online research through University of Toronto Libraries University Libraries Research

- Resources on academic support from the Academic Success Centre

- Learner support at the Writing Centre

- Information for Technical Support/Quercus Support

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDS

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.