

# CHM 499Y 2023/24 Course Syllabus

Welcome to CHM 499Y: Introduction to Chemistry Research for the 2023/24 academic year! The opportunity for doing original work in one of the branches of chemistry in the atmosphere of a research laboratory is a very valuable one, not only for prospective graduate work, but also for many other endeavours. CHM 499Y allows you to explore an experimental or theoretical research problem under the supervision of a faculty member: the expectation is that you will spend approximately 240 hours during the academic year on your work.

**Course Coordinators:** Professor Andrew Dicks (Fall 2023: [andrew.dicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.dicks@utoronto.ca)); Professor David Stone (Winter 2024: [david.stone@utoronto.ca](mailto:david.stone@utoronto.ca))

**Teaching Assistant:** Kirsten Yeung ([kirsten.yeung@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:kirsten.yeung@mail.utoronto.ca))

## Grading Scheme:

- mid-year review grade (assigned December 2023): 10%\*
- research supervisor assigned grade: 40%\*\*
- research thesis reader assigned grade: 30%\*\*
- poster presentation grade: 20%\*\*\*

\*the mid-year review is a formal assessment of your research progress during the Fall 2023 semester. **It is to be completed by both you and your research supervisor and is due no later than Friday 1st December 2023.** More information about the review process and the required form will be provided later in the semester.

\*\*the research supervisor grade of 40% is split between the work undertaken throughout the academic year and the quality of the research thesis. **The electronic submission of your final thesis to Quercus is due no later than end-of-day on Friday 5th April 2024.** The thesis will additionally be evaluated by one faculty reader other than your research supervisor.

\*\*\*poster presentations will take place in-person at the annual **CHM 499Y poster session to be held on Friday 22nd March 2024 between 2 - 4 p.m.** (tentative).

## Workshops:

Throughout the academic year, there will be five in-person only professional development workshops facilitated by the CHM 499Y teaching assistant (Kirsten Yeung), the departmental librarian (Madeleine Gerbig) and either Professor Dicks (fall semester) or Professor Stone (winter semester). **Students are required to attend a minimum of three of these workshops and are very highly encouraged to attend more than this.** There will be three workshops during Fall 2023 and two during Winter 2024 on the following topics:

1. How to Read, Search & Manage Scientific Literature (week of Monday 18th September): **confirmed as Wednesday 20th September, 5 - 7 p.m. in room LM 108**
2. Applications & Interviews (week of Monday 2nd October): **confirmed as Monday 2nd October, 5 - 7 p.m. in room LM 108**
3. Communicating Research to Different Audiences (week of Monday 30th October): **confirmed as Thursday 2nd November, 5 - 7 p.m. in room LM 108**
4. Writing a CHM 499Y Research Thesis: **confirmed as Monday 22nd January, 5 - 7 p.m. in room LM108**
5. Preparing & Delivering a Scientific Poster: **confirmed as Monday 5th February, 5 - 7 p.m. in room LM108**

## Departmental Colloquia:

The course coordinators view student attendance at departmental colloquia and seminars as a very important part of their professional development. Students are very strongly encouraged to attend in-person and/or on-line colloquia/seminars that are relevant to their research or are of broader scientific interest, in consultation with their research supervisor.

**Special note:** now that you are enrolled in CHM 499Y, you will see a Friday morning "class" appear on your timetable from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. This overlaps with the regular departmental colloquium timeslot, and appears for internal administrative reasons. It is not a regularly-scheduled class or workshop (**you can disregard the dates that appear in the timetable instructions**). You

can check out upcoming colloquia and seminar titles on the departmental [Chemistry Events](#) site.

If you have any questions regarding administrative aspects of CHM 499Y, please contact either Professor Dicks (fall semester) or Professor Stone (winter semester). We hope that you enjoy your research experience!