

**Chemistry 791, Section 1 (Biochemistry)
Thesis Proposal
Fall 2016**

Instructor: Bill Stumph
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Office: CSL 334
Phone: (619) 594-5575 (Office)
e-mail: wstumph@mail.sdsu.edu

Course time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., Fri., GMCS 305

Office hours: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday OR
Call or e-mail to make an appointment for just about anytime

The course:

Open to graduate students in Biochemistry.

Course description-The purpose of this course is to give M.S. students an opportunity and an audience to present and describe their proposed thesis research. Students should enroll in Chem 791 after they have defined and begun their thesis research project and acquired some preliminary data that demonstrates its feasibility. As such, your Chem 791 seminar will be a "thesis proposal." At the time of your seminar, your research should neither be too preliminary, nor should it be too near to completion. **Your thesis advisor should be able to help you decide when you are ready to enroll in this course. (You should probably share this syllabus with your thesis advisor if he/she is not familiar with these requirements.)**

Prior to your presentation, you must prepare a 1.5 to 2 page (single-spaced) summary that describes your proposed research project. **This summary must be pre-approved by your thesis advisor**, so work with your thesis advisor well in advance. That is, give a copy to your thesis advisor at least 4 weeks prior to your presentation so that you can work with him/her to produce a good abstract that correctly and thoroughly represents your proposed research project. After you have obtained approval from your thesis advisor, e-mail your research summary to the 791 instructor **at least two weeks prior to your scheduled Chem 791 presentation**. The instructor will review it, distribute it to the remaining members of the class, and advertise your seminar to the rest of the members of the department.

You will then present your thesis proposal as a seminar to the Chem 790/791 class and whomever else wishes to attend. In your oral presentation, you should give background and history of the overall question or problem you intend to investigate, state the specific aims of your research, and then describe the experimental plan and methods you have been and will be using to achieve your research goals. Be sure to delineate what has been

done and what still needs to be done. **You should work closely with your thesis advisor in preparing and practicing your 791 presentation. The expectation is that your thesis proposal will be done in a very professional manner.** There are hints for giving a good talk in the syllabus for the Chem 790 class and in another document entitled "How To Give a Good Talk". These will both be available on the 791 Blackboard website.

AS PART OF THE CHEM 791 CLASS, YOUR ATTENDANCE IS ALSO REQUIRED AT ALL OF THE CHEM 790, CHEM 791, AND THE PhD STUDENT TALKS GIVEN IN THE CHEM 790 TIME PERIOD (FRIDAYS 12:00-13:50). However, if you are registered only for Chem 791, you are not required to do any of the homework associated with that class.

SYLLABUS STATEMENT for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at [\(619\) 594-6473](tel:6195946473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION of course:

CHEM 791. Research Seminar (1)

Prerequisite: Consent of graduate adviser.

Presentation of current research by students working towards M.S. degrees. Must be completed before end of second year of study.