

CHEM 791 & EVSC 791 – Graduate Seminars

Fall 2023 Course Syllabus

NJIT Academic Integrity Code:

All Students should be aware that the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science (CES) takes the University Code on Academic Integrity at NJIT very seriously and enforces it strictly. This means that there must not be any forms of plagiarism, i.e., copying of homework, class projects, or lab assignments, or any form of cheating in quizzes and exams. Under the University Code on Academic Integrity, students are obligated to report any such activities to the Instructor.

COURSE INFORMATION

Academic and industrial speakers from across the country and the world present their scientific research for general discussion.

This course is required of all Chemistry (CHEM 791) and Environmental Science (EVSC 791) graduate students receiving departmental or research-based awards, and all doctoral students in the Department. The students must register each semester until completion of their degree.

Credits: 0

Contact hours: 1

Instructors:

Sara C. Zapico (CHEM 791 and EVSC 791)

[Tiernan Hall 365](#)

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Location: Virtual/In person (Tiernan Lect 1)

GRADING POLICY

Seminars are an important part of graduate school education. They allow the students to broaden their scope of knowledge by discovering other areas of research, by getting new ideas for their own projects, and by learning what type of scientific problems are encountered in industrial settings. As such, we consider that the presence and engagement of students to all seminars, whether or not they are directly related to their research topics, are of paramount importance. This is why final grades will be either “S (satisfactory)” or “U (unsatisfactory)”, based on attendance and performing post-seminar tasks after each seminar.

Attendance: Seminars will be announced by departmental emails and a preliminary schedule is presented below. CHEM 791 and EVSC 791 students can only miss **two** seminars without the need to attend a make-up seminar. If students have to miss seminar(s) because of travel related to research or to a conference, students should notify their instructor in advance to get approval for absence from the seminar. For a medical / personal reason, students should notify their instructor in advance, who will usually waive the requirement for attending make-up seminars.

Students who are unable to attend the graduate seminars for a particular semester must obtain permission from the Chair of Chemistry & Environmental Science or from the Chemistry & Environmental Science Graduate Student Advisor to waive their graduate seminar requirement. In most cases the permission will be for one semester only, and for ongoing situations, will need to be requested each semester.

Other than the above exceptions, if a student cannot attend a seminar, they should make up the missed seminar by attending a seminar (on a topic related to Chemistry or Environmental Science) offered by the NJIT Chemical Engineering Department, another NJIT Department, or the Chemistry Department at Rutgers University (Newark), and provide the instructors with a copy of the handwritten notes taken during the seminar as proof of attendance. In addition, keynote lectures and conference presentations can also be used as makeups as long as they are of an appropriate length (45-60 minutes). For a conference, a series of short talks on the same subject can together replace one long talk (for example, a session with 3 x 20-minute talks all on the same topic). Things that are not seminars include: lectures (including guest lectures) in classes, workshops, group meeting presentations, and talks that are not technical or in some way related to chemistry or environmental science. If you are in doubt, please ask an instructor to confirm if a presentation is appropriate before attending. If the talk is not something that one of the instructors announces, please include the flier or program with your submission.

Otherwise, the “U” grade will be assigned.

Post-Seminar Task: To promote engagement during the seminars, a short task will become available on the Canvas (<http://canvas.njit.edu/>) page of the course after each seminar. It will consist in answering some questions regarding to the seminar. It will open after the seminar and the deadline for completing it will be the following Tuesday, before the next seminar. Students that put little to no effort in fulfilling the post-seminar task will first receive a warning. Additional offenses will result in the “U” grade being assigned.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

For this semester, some seminars are scheduled to be in person and some are virtual. Students are reminded that arriving late or leaving early is disrespectful to the speakers and other attendees.

Course Outline

Date	Speaker	Speaker's Institution	In Person/Virtual
September 6	Introduction to the Seminar Class-Attendance Mandatory		
September 13	Dr. Junmin Peng	St. Jude Research Hospital	In person
September 20	Dr. George Jackson	New Jersey Medical Examiner's Office	In person
September 27	Dr. Paul Westerhoff	ASU	In person
October 4	Dr. Ravi Kalyanaraman	Bristol-Myers Squibb	In person
October 11	Dr. Josh Worch	Virginia Tech	In person
October 18	Dr. Jiajue Chai	SUNY ESF	In person
October 25	Dr. Joe Adserias-Garriga	Mercyhurst University	Virtual
November 1	Dr. Fangqun Yu	SUNY Albany	In person
November 8	CES Research Day		Attendance Mandatory
November 15	Dr. Philip Demokritou	Rutgers	In person

November 22	No seminar		
November 29	Dr. Stephen Previs	Merck Co.	In person
December 6	Dr. Ming Xian	Brown University	In person
December 13	Dr. Peter Vikesland	Virginia Tech	In person

Warning: This schedule can change. Seminars might be added, some might have to be cancelled, and the room, date and/or time of some seminars might have to be adjusted. **You are solely responsible of keeping up-to-date with the changes in the schedule, which will be announced via departmental email.**