

EVSC 791– Graduate Seminars

Fall 2024 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

Instructor:

Trevor J. Del Castillo (EVSC 791)
Tiernan Hall 370
td342@njit.edu

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.

Generative AI Tools: The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT or other language models, is not permitted in this course.

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 11	Student Orientation		
September 18	Prof. Alexei Khalizov	NJIT	In Person
September 25	Prof. Mengyan Li	NJIT	In Person
October 2	Prof. Michele Pavanello	Rutgers University	In Person
October 9	TBD		
October 16	Prof. Christopher Chang	Princeton University	In Person
October 23	TBD		
October 30	Prof. Hui Zhang	Johns Hopkins University	In Person
November 6	TBD		
November 13	Prof. Gaël Ung	University of Connecticut	In Person
November 14	Research Day (Thursday)		
November 20	TBD		
November 27	Thanksgiving - No seminar		
December 4	TBD		
December 11	TBD		

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.**