

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eugene Wagner
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OBJECTIVES OF COURSE:

Select a topic in physical chemistry and write an in depth article on the subject. The purpose is to give students an opportunity to explore a topic of their choice and create a “journal ready” manuscript.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum 15 pages (not including title page, references and appendices) double spaced with 1 in margins. Use 11 point Arial font. Citations should follow either The Journal of Physical Chemistry format or APA style format. Heading format will vary depending on the nature of your paper. As a start, use headings similar to that found in J. Phys. Chem. review and research articles. Tables and figures should be referred to in the text and be attached at the end of the paper as appendices. The title page should include the title, author, institutional affiliation, email and a 250 word abstract.

WORK SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES: Failure to meet any of the deadlines outlined below may result in an incomplete grade (G) for the semester. However, you have up to a year to complete the assignment. The G grade will then be replaced with the appropriate letter grade. All meetings are by appointment and scheduled as need. Please email me soon with a list of possible times to meet for the first meeting by January 24th.

- January 24 - Initial meeting. Bring topic ideas.
- February 8 - Final approval of topic. Topic ideas can be submitted via by email. Include a few references so that I can investigate the topic a bit more to determine appropriateness for this course.
- March 11 - Comprehensive outline due with references in proper format for paper. Make sure to include the references in the outline. Each bulleted point in the outline should represent a paragraph in the paper. Used sub-bullets to provide further details for each paragraph. You may find the following helpful resources: <https://www.aresearchguide.com/> and <https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.200400767>
- April 5 - Progress review meeting. The goal is to make sure your manuscript is proceeding in an appropriate direction and to review and discuss specific issues in person.
- April 19 - Manuscript due. Submit an electronic copy (through email). The manuscript should mimic a manuscript that you would submit to a journal for review. It should be done to the best of your ability. When I review the manuscript, I will act as a journal review, focusing more on the topic, discussion and analysis. Copy editing, such as grammar, is not the main focus of the review, It expected that you are able to write at the level required for a publication. If your writing style is so poor that the manuscript is not easily “reviewable”, I will return it un-reviewed and ask that you fix the writing mechanics before accepting. Therefore, do not wait until the final due date if you are concerned about your writing style and prose. Otherwise, the manuscript for you to edit and your grade will be reduced accordingly.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students are responsible for knowing and observing the University of Pittsburgh Code of Student Academic Integrity, which forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Students who are suspected of violating this code will be required to participate in the legal procedural process as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. ***Your work will be checked by plagiarism software.***

GRADING SCHEME & SCALE:

Initial Meeting by Jan 24 th	5 points	A-,A,A+	85% ↑
Final Topic approved by Feb. 8 th	5 points	B-,B,B+	75 – 84%
Comprehensive outline by March 11 th	35 points	C-,C,C+	65 – 74%
Progress review meeting by April 5 th	5 points	D-,D,D+	55 – 64%
Manuscript due by April 19 th	50 points	F	55% ↓

Total 100 points

Exact “+” & “-” letter grade assignments will be determined by Dr. Wagner