

CHM1490: Physical Chemistry Seminar

Course Syllabus, Fall/Winter 2024/2025

Co-ordinator:

Prof. Mark W.B. Wilson, LM241, mark.w.b.wilson@utoronto.ca

Note: E-mail is preferred. Only messages from UofT accounts will garner responses.

Website: The syllabus, on-line seminar feedback form, and course announcements are/will be posted on Quercus. Log in with your UTORid at: q.utoronto.ca

Seminar Location and Time: Seminars will generally take place every week during term at 11am on Tuesdays. Exceptions will be noted on the Seminar Schedule, maintained on Quercus.

Seminars will be held in-person in Davenport East (Lash Miller: LM380)

The situation could always evolve, up-to-date instructions will be available on Quercus.

Minimum Technical Requirements: A platform capable of accessing Quercus.

Course Description: This seminar series provides graduate students with the opportunity to learn about contemporary research in Physical and Theoretical Chemistry and hone their skills as scientific communicators. It also serves as a forum for M.Sc. students to present their [exit seminar](#), and for Ph.D. students to [present their research](#) (typically in years 2&4 of their program). Seminars will also be given by experts in the field on a range of associated topics. Students are also expected to attend Departmental Colloquia sponsored by faculty in Physical Chemistry or Chemical Physics. Relevant seminars and colloquia from other chemistry disciplines may occasionally be recommended. Training in the preparation and delivery of a research seminar will be provided.

Course Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on a credit/no-credit basis based on their participation, which will be monitored by the course co-ordinator. All students are required to attend seminars regularly and encouraged to ask questions.

As an aspect of their participation, registered students are expected to provide brief written comment on presentations, using the on-line form provided on Quercus. *The expectation is that each student will provide constructive feedback on **more than half** of the seminars offered in 2024/2025.*¹

The course co-ordinator will ensure that a faculty member provides feedback on each student presentation via 1) a brief informal discussion to occur immediately after the presentation, and/or 2) in written form thereafter, drawing from the comments submitted by peers via the constructive feedback form.

Course Policies

Each member of this course is expected to maintain a:

- i professional and respectful attitude during all course activities, including classes, laboratories, tutorials, and other online activities.
- ii personal calendar/schedule/organizer to ensure that all course activities are completed, and due dates are met.
- iii collection of notes recorded independently based on concepts covered in course activities (students registered with Accessibility Services requiring a class note-taker will have access to this accommodation.)

¹Though the schedule for upcoming year has not been finalized, the submission of feedback for *twelve* or more seminars/associated Colloquia would have been consistent with satisfactory attendance last year (2023/2024).

iv familiarity with the university policy on Academic Integrity.

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. The CHM1490 teaching team will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course, and we wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment, and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to the staff in our [Equity Offices](#).

Institutional Policies and Support

Academic Integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/).

Copyright & Video Recording:

Elements of this course, including your participation during seminars, may be recorded on video and made available to students in the course for asynchronous viewing after each session. For questions about the recording/use of videos in which you appear, please contact the co-ordinator. Course videos and materials belong to your co-ordinator, the University, and/or others depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. If a student wishes to copy or reproduce class presentations, course notes, they must obtain the co-ordinator's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. More information regarding this is available here:

<https://teaching.utoronto.ca/resources/recording-of-lectures-and-class-sessions/>

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course—you are welcome to discuss in-class accommodations and supports with the co-ordinator. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility: if you require accommodations for a disability, or have any other accessibility concerns about the course, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible, to ensure that there is time to make arrangements. Particularly, accommodations involving assessment will generally require consultation with a University Accessibility Counsellor.

Accommodations for Religious Observances

Following the University's policies, reasonable accommodations will be made for students who observe religious holy days that coincide with the due date/time of class activities. Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances/before the date of the relevant activity, and instructors will make a reasonable effort to to arrange accommodations.

Additional Services & Support

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support:

- School of Graduate Studies' [Policies and Guidelines](#)
- Full library service and resources on conducting online research through [University of Toronto Libraries](#)
- Resources on academic support from the [Academic Success Centre](#)
- Learner support at the [Writing Centre](#)
- Information for [Technical Support/Quercus Support](#)

Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands The University of Toronto wishes to acknowledge this land on which it operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.