

Instructor: Rock Mancini
Class meetings: FULMER 438 **Tue** 12:30 -1:30 pm
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:30-1:30pm
Email: rmancini@wsu.edu

Recommended Texts:

- *The Craft of Scientific Presentations* by Michael Alley
- *Talk Like TED* by Carmine Gallo

Grading Policy: 100% of your grade will be based on your presentation (point #3 below). Grades will be assigned according to faculty consensus using the attached rubric.

In this class you will:

1. Evaluate current literature related to your research.
2. Condense those ideas down to a single presentation topic (first-year students).
3. **Present** a seminar (see guidelines) to the organic division (100% of grade).
4. Critique other student presentations

Week 1:

1/12 - Introduction

Week 2:

1/19 – Show up with 5 authors related to the field you will present on

Week 3:

1/26 – Literature searching (bring a laptop)

Week 4:

2/2 – Topic Selection Peer-Review and Seminar Organization

Week 5:

2/9 – First Available Day for Seminars

Week 6:

2/16 – Student Talks – TBD

Week 7:

2/23 – Student Talks – TBD

Week 8:

3/1 – Student Talks – TBD

Week 9:
3/8 - Student Talks - TBD

Week 10:
3/15 - Spring Break

Week 11:
3/22 - Student Talks - TBD

Week 12
3/29 - Student Talks - TBD

Week 13
4/5 - Student Talks - TBD

Week 14
4/12 - Eugene Koonin - NIH

Week 15
4/19 - Student Talks - TBD

Week 16
4/26 - Last available day for seminars

Week 17 (Finals Week)
5/3 - Contingency

PREPARING YOUR SEMINAR

1. Schedule a seminar date with the faculty seminar mentor (Mancini), who will set up the schedule for the semester.
2. **TOPIC SELECTION** (first-year students): Choose a topic wisely, discussing it with your advisor and the faculty seminar mentor for that quarter. You must get approval of the seminar on the attached form from your advisor and Mancini (Spring 16) **at least 2 weeks prior to your seminar**. You can choose a topic in virtually any area of organic chemistry, but no reviews on the topic should have appeared within the last two years, unless there have been significant advances since the review. You can pick a subject that is related in general background to your own research project, but it should not be on the same subject as your research project. Current, interesting, and timely topics of interest to a range of students and faculty are ideal.
4. **ABSTRACT:** As part of your presentation, you will need to prepare an abstract of your talk and distribute it to all organic faculty and graduate students. This is most effectively done by emailing your abstract in pdf format to Stacie Olsen-Wilkes (stacie37@wsu.edu). The *deadline* is on the Friday morning before your talk (before noon). The abstract should be one page and include 1 figure or chemical scheme. The text should be 750-1500 characters and should give a broad overview of your talk. References should be included that conform to *Accounts of Chemical Research* format and should represent a thorough literature survey of your subject. You should show it to your advisor for comments and corrections one week before your seminar.
5. **VISUAL-AID PREPARATIONS:** Prepare your visual materials carefully. Clear computer projections will aid your talk. Do not put too much information on a slide. Be sure to try out the projector, microphone, and pointer in advance.
6. **PRACTICE!** Practice your talk in front of your research group and other students or faculty as often as it takes to perfect the talk. The benefits of practicing your talk out loud in front of a live audience cannot be overemphasized. Your talk should be 25 minutes long (equivalent to 20-25 slides at most), plus questions.
7. **SEMINAR DAY PREPARATIONS:** On the day of your talk, it is your responsibility to gather all necessary materials such as projectors, microphone, pointer, and make sure they work. The previous week's speaker will introduce you at the beginning of your seminar. Be prepared for short questions during and after your talk. These often serve to clarify unclear points, check further advances in the field, and check your thoroughness in researching your chosen topic.
8. **AFTERWARDS:** Please meet with the faculty seminar mentor on the Monday after your seminar to discuss your performance. The positive and negative aspects of your presentation will be discussed based upon faculty comments so that the seminar can be a learning experience to prepare for future scientific talks.