

Syllabus: Chemistry 611, Fall 2021 – “Out of Field Research Proposal (OFRP) Course”

Instructor: Professor Wilma K. Olson

"SECTION 01": Mondays, Wright-Rieman Labs, Room 260, 1:00-2:20 PM

1. Overview

The goal of the OFRP is for 2nd year graduate students to demonstrate that they have the ability to understand the chemical literature in depth, to interpret data properly, to reason analytically, and to formulate appropriate experiments or computations/theory in the context of the reported work. Students will be required to:

- select a paper from the literature that has appeared on the web within six weeks prior to the date of the assigned proposal presentation.
- present the chosen literature paper *as if it were their own work*, then propose a project that could be a logical outcome of that work.
- be prepared to defend (or identify faults) in the paper, from the goals, hypotheses, and significance of the work through data collection, results, and conclusions.
- be prepared to defend the design of the proposed project

Important: this handout is a syllabus; it is not a detailed description of the OFRP which is described separately below.

2. Protocol

Note your presentation date (assigned on the first day of class). Clear your calendar now for this date; the schedule is tight and there will be no "make-up" dates. **Notify your thesis committee co-advisors of the date.**

- Six weeks before your presentation date**, start looking for a paper online in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (JACS) or a comparable journal, e.g., *Journal of Molecular Biology*, *Journal of Chemical Physics*, *Biophysical Journal*. It should be a full paper, not a communication.
- At least three weeks (preferably more) before your presentation date, you must choose a valid paper – which must be approved in writing or electronically by your advisor. Forward a PDF file of the paper along with a link to the approval form to your 611 instructor and co-advisors.** The completed approval form should be submitted to the 611 instructor. The approval form, which is included with this handout, can be signed directly or electronically using DocuSign. You can register for DocuSign at the following URL: <https://it.rutgers.edu/docusign/getting-started-with-docusign/>.
- Two weeks before your presentation date**, you must send your completed written proposal via email to your 611 instructor and co-advisors.
- One week before your presentation date**, you must send your completed Powerpoint presentation to your 611 instructor and co-advisors.
- The day of your presentation**, bring a copy of the IFRP-OFRP form, which can be found at the Graduate Program Rules, Procedures and Forms site (<https://chem.rutgers.edu/academics/graduate-program/rules-procedures-and-forms>). **AFTER THE COMPLETION OF YOUR PRESENTATION, HAVE THIS FORM FILLED OUT AND SIGNED DIRECTLY OR ELECTRONICALLY BY YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RETURN IT TO THE GRADUATE OFFICE.**

The above items must be received in a timely fashion; otherwise, you risk your admission to candidacy.

- Be sure to remind your co-advisors a day or two before your presentation to attend.
- All students must attend every class and ask questions of their classmate's presentations. Attendance will be taken and will be reflected in the grade you receive for the course.

3. Presentation

Each student will give a 25-35 minute oral presentation. You must provide any visual aids (including laptop and LCD projector) that you wish to use. Room 260 usually has a working LCD projector, but you should make sure it is working for your presentation.

4. The grade for the course will be based on the OFRP written component and oral presentation, and class participation, and attendance. Points will be deducted for failure to meet the above deadlines.