Inorganic Chemistry Seminar  
Chemistry 776-002  
Fall 2006  
Fridays, 2:00 p.m., CP-137

Instructor:  
John P. Selegue, CP-11, phone 257-3484, email selegue@uky.edu

Office hours:  
MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Course Description:  
Reports and discussions on recent research and current literature. Required of all graduate students. May be repeated for a total of eight credits. (1 credit hour)

Grading:  
Students taking CHE 776 for a grade will be evaluated mainly on the basis of a seminar on a topic from the recent chemical literature. The Inorganic Chemistry faculty will evaluate student seminars. Criteria for evaluation will include selection of topic, literature coverage, quality of the abstract, visual aids and presentation, and observance of proper format and deadlines. Student comments on seminars will be solicited by means of a brief evaluation sheet. Student comments will be considered in the seminar grade and will be transmitted anonymously to the presenter. Each presenter must schedule a brief discussion of his or her seminar with the instructor during the week following the seminar. Plus/minus grading is not used in this course.

Abstract = 10%  
Seminar = 75%  
Speaker introduction = 5%  
Class participation, including attendance and evaluation forms = 10%

Course Schedule:  
A course schedule including the topics or titles of student seminars will be distributed after all topics are approved. Seminar notices will be included in electronic Chem News. The schedule and student abstracts will be linked to the Department of Chemistry CHE 776 website at http://www.chem.uky.edu/seminars/welcome.html.

Student seminars:  
Speaker introduction. Each student registered for credit will provide a brief introduction for another student’s seminar. Obtain background information such as the pronunciation of the speaker’s name and seminar title, hometown, academic background, research group and another other pertinent interests, from the speaker prior to the seminar. The introduction should be less than a minute long. Keep it professional – no inside jokes or giggling.

Content. Student seminars must provide a good overview of a contemporary topic in inorganic or organometallic chemistry. Topics are due to the instructor in writing by September 8. Although topics can be modified (usually narrowed) as the seminar is prepared, significant changes must be cleared with the instructor. Seminars must draw information from articles in the primary chemical literature, i.e., original research articles about inorganic chemistry. Although review articles can be used for background, seminars must not merely summarize a published review article. Computer literature searches can be run with SciFinder and other tools. Contact the Chemistry-Physics library for assistance. An exact title, which will be distributed via email in Chem News, must be turned in to the instructor at or before the CHE 776 meeting two weeks before the date of the
Abstract. The presenter must prepare a one-page abstract prior to the seminar. Abstract instructions and format are described at the end of this syllabus. Computer resources including Microsoft Word, ChemDraw and ChemWindow are available in CP-148 or in individual research groups. The abstract in Microsoft Word, rtf or pdf format must be emailed or delivered on electronic media to the instructor for approval by 12:00 noon on the Monday preceding the seminar. There is no penalty for early submission! If changes are needed, they must be made by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday preceding the seminar. The abstract will be posting to the CHE 776 website, http://www.chem.uky.edu/courses/che776/inorganic, and circulated electronically to the class members and the Inorganic Chemistry Division. Speakers are encouraged to bring a few paper copies of their abstract to the seminar.

Presentation. Seminars must be at least 30 minutes long. PowerPoint or a similar computer-based presentation is preferred, and a LCD projector with Windows computer can be borrowed in advance from chemistry office (CP-125) to check for compatibility. Transparencies for an overhead projector are suitable. The chemistry office (CP-125) will provide up to fifteen transparencies per student, either "write-on" transparencies or your prepared pages photocopied (in black only) directly onto transparencies. Prepared pages for photocopying must be submitted to the Chemistry receptionist by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before your seminar. There is a 35-mm slide projector available in CP-137 for nostalgia’s sake. Regardless of medium, take care to ensure legibility. Don't use font sizes below about 18-point. If figures are copied from published paper, scan at high resolution (at least 200 dpi) for a computer presentation or expand on a photocopier for transparencies. Use the blackboard as needed. Cite the source of any figure or table from the literature.

Feedback. As soon as possible after your seminar, the instructor will provide an anonymous summary of student and instructor comments to the speaker. After reviewing them, set up a brief conference with your instructor, during office hours or by appointment, before the following class meeting.

Literature Highlights:

Cumulative Examination review:
The writer of each Inorganic Chemistry Cumulative Examination will review it a week or two after the exam. Only students who are currently taking cumulative exams are required to attend, but others are welcome.

Outside speakers:
A few outside speakers may present seminars this semester, including Departmental Seminar or American Chemical Society visitors, faculty members from UK or postdoctoral associates from the Chemistry Department. When these seminars are held at our regular meeting time, attendance is required.

Absence Policy:
Evaluation sheets will be used to record your attendance at seminars. If you are
registered for credit, you may miss two seminars or Literature Highlights without penalty. Each two additional, unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter grade. Excused absences are defined in the UK Bulletin. Attendance at a professional meeting is considered an excused absence. Policies related to official University excused absences may be found in the Student Rights and Responsibilities manual. [See http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs.Code/, Section 5.2.4.2.] Please inform the instructor about excused absences as early as possible.

Please support your fellow students by showing up on time. Chronic tardiness will be treated the same as absence.

If you are registered for audit, the instructor will follow the University regulations regarding auditing a course. These regulations state that a student must attend at least 80% of the classes in the course (excluding excused absences); otherwise, a grade of "W" may be awarded.

Academic offenses:

New rules about academic offenses have gone in effect in Fall 2006. Links to these rules are found at the UK Ombud’s site: http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/. The Department of Chemistry considers any type of academic dishonesty a serious offense and we will respond appropriately. The only likely offense in this class is plagiarism, i.e., representing the work of others as your own. Please be vigilant about writing your own abstract and properly crediting the source of any text that you use from the literature. If you are uncertain about what may constitute academic dishonesty in the course, please ask the instructor.