

Course Information

Contact Details

Instructor	Dr. Jeremy B. Maddox
Office	KTH 4041
Office Hours	MWF 8:30–9 am and 10:05–10:45 am or by appointment
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Course Details

Course	CRN 41880 CHEM 398-501 (1 credits)
Title	Undergraduate Seminar
Location	SH 3107
Day(s)/Time	F 2:15–3:30 PM
Prerequisite	junior standing
Summary	A formal introduction to the chemical literature culminating in a student presentation on a selected topic. A treatment pertaining to career opportunities for chemists, resume writing, interview techniques and outside speakers from industry and academics will be included.

Recommended Books

Title	A PhD is Not Enough
ISBN	0465022227

Title	The Elements of Style
ISBN	9780205309023

Title	The ACS Style Guide
URL	https://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841239999#

Title	On Being a Scientist
URL	https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in

Student Learning Objectives

1. To foster basic career development skills, such as: preparing a resume and cover letter, finding career opportunities, and interviewing techniques.
2. To familiarize students with the basic tools needed to conduct a scientific literature search. This will include using search engines and databases. Students will strengthen their written and oral communication skills by preparing a literature review and presentation.
3. To develop an understanding of the impact of scientific ethics on society (and also your career).

Projects and Grading Policy

Students must be fully engaged and actively participate in all classroom discussions and projects. Failure to do so will result in a student receiving zero credit for that part of a given project.

There are three projects: (1) Career Development Project; (2) Literature Review Project; and (3) Scientific Ethics Project. Each project contains multiple assignments that will be due on different dates. Pay attention to the due dates on the handouts regarding these projects.

Students will receive numeric scores on each assignment. The score for each assignment within a given project will be summed to give a project score. The three project scores will be given equal weight in determining a final course score. Letter grades will be assigned based on this score using the scale:

A (100–90) B (89–80) C (79–70) D (69–60) F (59–0)

Attendance Policy

The policy of the WKU Student Handbook will be followed in this course, “Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance...When a student is absent from class because of illness, death in the family, or other justifiable reasons, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible.”

Make-up work is not available for this course.

Students must maintain a high degree of engagement with the digital content provided for this online course. This includes video lectures and homework problems. Students must be responsive to email inquiries using their official WKU email account.

Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Cheating

The policy of the WKU Student Handbook will be followed in this course, “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary sanctions.”

Student Accessibility Services

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at (270) 745-5004 [(270) 745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Policy

WKU is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, (270)

745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, (270) 745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, (270) 745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at (270) 745-3159.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda	Speaker
1	F Aug 26	Course overview	Maddox
2	F Sep 02	Career opportunities/services	Maddox
3	F Sep 09	ACS and journals	Maddox
4	F Sep 16	Chemical information sources	Maddox
5	F Sep 23	Web of Science/SciFinder	Maddox
6	F Sep 30	Web of Science/SciFinder	Maddox
7	F Oct 07	Work on projects	Office hours
8	F Oct 14	FALL BREAK	
9	F Oct 21	Work on projects	Office hours
10	F Oct 28	Literature review presentations	Students
11	F Nov 04	On Being a Scientist	Class Discussion
12	F Nov 11	On Being a Scientist	Class Discussion
13	F Nov 18	Ethics presentations	Students
14	F Nov 25	THANKSGIVING	
15	F Dec 02	NO CLASS	
16	F Dec 09	NO CLASS	