

SELECTED TOPICS IN CHEMISTRY

CHEM 4540

Spring 2025

Instructor:	Matthew Rowley	Office Hours:	Daily 10:00 am – 11:00 am
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Please include the course number in the subject line of all correspondence.

Course Description

This is our formal Seminar Series course. Students will be expected to attend and actively participate in seminars featuring speakers hosted by all departments in the College of Natural Sciences.

Prerequisites: None

Concurrent requisite: None

Course Materials: None

Tentative Schedule

This class will meet on Mondays 4:00 to 4:50 in room 108 of the Geosciences building (GEO 108)

Jan 13 Zach Smith (Geology)

Jan 27 Caty Pilachowski (Chem/Physics)

Feb 3 Heather Talley (Biology)

Feb 10 Tyler Knudsen (Geology)

Feb 24 Jacob Painter (Chem/Physics)

Mar 3 Sydney Rowley (Chem/Physics)

Mar 17 Garrett Vice (Geology)

Mar 24 Amy Dolan (Biology)

Mar 31 TBD

Apr 7 Don Long (Biology)

Apr 14 TBD

Course Policies and Grading

Grades will be based on the following assignment categories:

Attendance (30%): Students will be expected to attend seven of the seminars, including all of those hosted by the Department of Chemistry and Physics and at least one hosted by each of the other departments

Questions (30%): Each seminar will include time to ask questions of the speaker. Students must ask at least one thoughtful question of the speaker during two seminars

Quizzes (20%): The instructor will write a quiz on Canvas for each speaker, based on what was said during the lecture. Students must take the quiz for each of the seven seminars which they attend

Reflective Essay (20%): In lieu of a final exam, students must write a short (1-2 page) reflective essay by the end of the semester. This essay should discuss one scientific idea that they learned during the seminars, and one helpful piece of advice about career choices, work-life balance, succeeding in graduate school, or another topic of personal significance that they learned about during the seminars.

Exams (0%): Note that this course is uniquely focused on active participation in seminars, thus there are no exams – neither midterms nor a final exam.

Final Grades will be assigned according to the following grade scale:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
100–93.0	A	77.0–73.0	C
93.0–90.0	A-	73.0–70.0	C-
90.0–87.0	B+	70.0–67.0	D+
87.0–83.0	B	67.0–63.0	D
83.0–80.0	B-	63.0–60.0	D-
80.0–77.0	C+	< 60.0	F

Miscellany

Academic Credit: According to the federal definition of a Carnegie credit hour: A credit hour of work is the equivalent of approximately 60 minutes of class time or independent study work. A minimum of 45 hours of work by each student is required for each unit of credit. Credit is earned only when course requirements are met. One (1) credit hour is equivalent to 15 contact hours of lecture, discussion, testing, evaluation, or seminar, as well as 30 hours of student homework. An equivalent amount of work is expected for laboratory work, internships, practica, studio, and other academic work leading to the awarding of credit hours. Credit granted for individual courses, labs, or studio classes range from 0.5 to 15 credit hours per semester.

Academic Freedom: SUU is operated for the common good of the greater community it serves. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic Freedom is the right of faculty to study, discuss, investigate, teach, and publish. Academic Freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research.

Academic Freedom in the realm of teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty member and of you, the student, with respect to the free pursuit of learning and discovery. Faculty members possess the right to full freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects. They may present any controversial material relevant to their courses and their intended learning outcomes, but they shall take care not to introduce into their teaching controversial materials which have no relation to the subject being taught or the intended learning outcomes for the course.

As such, students enrolled in any course at SUU may encounter topics, perspectives, and ideas that are unfamiliar or controversial, with the educational intent of providing a meaningful learning environment that fosters your growth and development. These parameters related to Academic Freedom are included in SUU [Policy 6.6](#).

Academic Misconduct: Scholastic honesty is expected of all students. Dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent (see [SUU Policy 6.33](#)). You are expected to have read and understood the current SUU student conduct code ([SUU Policy 11.2](#)) regarding student responsibilities and rights, the intellectual property policy ([SUU Policy 5.52](#)), information about procedures, and what constitutes acceptable behavior.

Please Note: The use of websites or services that sell essays is a violation of these policies; likewise, the use of websites or services that provide answers to assignments, quizzes, or tests is also a violation of these policies. Regarding the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), you should check with your individual course instructor.

ADA Statement: Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids will need to contact the [Disability Resource Center](#), located in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or by phone at (435) 865-8042. The Disability Resource Center determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

If your instructor requires attendance, you may need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy. Please contact the Disability Resource Center to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.

Non-Discrimination Statement: SUU is committed to fostering an inclusive community of lifelong learners and believes our university's encompassing of different views, beliefs, and identities makes us stronger, more innovative, and better prepared for the global society.

SUU does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex (including sex discrimination and sexual harassment), sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ancestry, disability status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, genetic information, military status, veteran status, or other bases protected by applicable law in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. SUU strives to cultivate a campus environment that encourages freedom of expression from diverse viewpoints. We encourage all to dialogue within a spirit of respect, civility, and decency.

For additional information on non-discrimination, please see [Policy 5.27](#) and/or visit:

<https://www.suu.edu/nondiscrimination>.

Pregnancy: Students who are or become pregnant during this course may receive reasonable modifications to facilitate continued access and participation in the course. Pregnancy and related conditions are broadly defined to include pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, related medical conditions, and recovery. To obtain reasonable modifications, please make a request to: title9@suu.edu. To learn more visit: <https://www.suu.edu/titleix/pregnancy.html>.

Mandatory Reporting: University policy ([SUU Policy 5.60](#)) requires instructors to report disclosures received from students that indicate they have been subjected to sexual misconduct/harassment. The University defines sexual harassment consistent with Federal Regulations ([34 C.F.R. Part 106, Subpart D](#)) to include quid pro quo, hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. When students communicate this information to an instructor in-person, by email, or within writing assignments, the instructor will report that to the Title IX Coordinator to ensure students receive support from the Title IX Office. A reporting form is available at <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SouthernUtahUniv>

Emergency Management Statement: In case of emergency, the university's Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the *mySUU* portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the university's emergency management plan can be found at: <http://www.suu.edu/emergency>

HEOA Compliance Statement: For a full set of Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) compliance statements, please visit <https://www.suu.edu/heoa>. The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is

prohibited by law; additional information can be found at <https://my.suu.edu/help/article/1096/heoa-compliance-plan>.

You are also expected to comply with policies regarding intellectual property (SUU Policy 5.52) and copyright (SUU Policy 5.54).

SUUSA Statement: As a student at SUU, you have representation from the SUU Student Association (SUUSA) which advocates for student interests and helps work as a liaison between the students and the university administration. You can submit MySUU Voice feedback by going to <https://www.suu.edu/suusa/voice>. Likewise, you can learn more about SUUSA's Executive Council at <https://www.suu.edu/suusa/executive-council> and about all of SUUSA's Student Senators at <https://www.suu.edu/suusa/senate>. If you have any specific concerns regarding any of your courses, please contact the SUUSA VP of Academics at: suusa_academicsvp@suu.edu.

Thriving Thunderbirds: Mental health is essential for your academic success. If you are struggling with mental health issues, SUU provides resources, support, and services to help you. Please visit <https://www.suu.edu/mentalhealth> for access to these valuable resources.

If you need assistance navigating any of the resources, please contact [Counseling and Psychological Services](#), the [Dean of Students' Office](#), or the [Health and Wellness Center](#).

Writing Center: The SUU Undergraduate Writing Center invites all students to the Writing Center in Braithwaite Center 101 where qualified peer tutors are ready to help with any stage of the writing process. Fall hours start September 3: M-Th 8 am–9 pm, F 8 am–5 pm, and Saturday 11 am–3 pm. All appointments are free, and both in-person and Zoom appointments are available. To schedule, visit our website at <https://www.suu.edu/hss/writingcenter>.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: SUU wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region as original possessors, stewards, and inhabitants of this Too'veep (land), and recognize that the University is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nung'wu (Southern Paiute People). We recognize that these lands have deeply rooted spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to the Southern Paiutes. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for the collaborative and resilient nature of the Southern Paiute people, and for the continuous opportunity to study, learn, work, and build community. SUU works towards building meaningful relationships with Native Nations and Indigenous communities through academic pursuits, partnerships, historical recognitions, community service, and student success efforts.

Disclaimer: Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.