

## Medicinal Chemistry Seminar Essay Assignment

The essay is due before midnight, February 21, 2014.

The essay must be typewritten, between 8 and 10 double-spaced pages in length, in 12-point Arial or similar typeface, with one inch margins at left, right, top, and bottom. Note: this document is written in 12-point Arial, with uniform 1 inch margins. Up to three figures may be included in an 8 page essay; up to four may be included in a 9 page essay, and up to five may be included in a 10 page essay. No figure may exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a page in size.

A minimum of five literature references are required for the essay. The references described in your annotated bibliography are required, but you may use others as well. In general, online sources are not acceptable references, although there are exceptions for certain bioinformatic databases. URLs may be used as references ONLY for this kind of database. Wikipedia and things like it, including Scholarpedia, are not acceptable as references. In any case, no online reference may count towards the minimum number of five literature references.

Essays should be written in a sober, scientific style, and exhibit good grammar and usage. Literature citations must follow the American Chemical Society Style Guide, for which I have posted a Quick Reference on the course's Moodle site. Egregious errors in grammar, usage, spelling, or citation style will be penalized, and / or require that your paper be re-written.

You are strongly encouraged to make use of the writing centre in preparing your essays.

You are strongly encouraged to make use of the library and its resources, specifically, the librarians, as you conduct the research for your essays. The Chemistry Librarian is Elaine MacLean (emaclean@stfx.ca). She will be happy to help you find articles, distinguish valid from invalid references, figure out how to cite references properly, *etc.*

I will also be prepared to assist you with your essays.

The essay will be assessed according to the following scheme.

Chem 455  
Medicinal Chemistry  
Grading Scheme for the Essay, 2014

A: (80 – 100)

- The essay exceeds the basic requirements of the assignment described in the syllabus.
- It provides a context in which to situate the understanding of its main content (i.e. it has a good “background” section).
- It is focused.
- It identifies and discusses the most important elements of its subject matter.
- It explores at least one advanced aspect of its subject matter in depth.
- It demonstrates that its author understands its subject matter, and the relationship of that subject matter to general principles of medicinal chemistry and biochemistry or biology.
- It is logically written, flows well, is free of grammatical, usage and spelling errors, and is a pleasure to read.
- It teaches DMM something.

B: (70 – 80)

- In between.

C: (60 – 70)

- The essay meets the basic requirements of the assignment described in the syllabus.
- It has an adequate background section.
- It lacks focus.
- It does not distinguish between really important aspects of its subject matter and more tangential aspects.
- It does not explore at least one advanced aspect of its subject matter, or does so in a flawed or incomplete manner, or does not do so with great depth.
- It demonstrates flaws in its author’s understanding of its subject matter.
- It does not successfully establish relationships between its subject matter and general principles of medicinal chemistry or biochemistry or biology.
- It exhibits flaws in logical organization, flow, grammar, usage, and / or spelling errors, and is difficult to read.