

**CHEM 487**  
**Senior Seminar**  
**Fall 2024**

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**Dr. Maria V. Schiza**                      **Meeting Times:** Mondays - 4:00-4:50 & 5:00-5:30 pm (Caputo 149)  
**Office:** Caputo 219  
**e-mail:** [Maria.Schiza@millersville.edu](mailto:Maria.Schiza@millersville.edu)  
**Tel:** (717) 871-7437  
**Office Hours: Mon: 9:30-10:30 am & 12-1 pm, Wed: 9:30-10:30 am, Fri: 9:30-10:30 am & 12-1 pm**  
Alternative times can be scheduled by appointment or virtually through Zoom.

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**COURSE TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS:**

No textbook is required for this course. Handouts will be provided when appropriate. Content may also be posted onto Desire2Learn (D2L). It is your responsibility to keep up with due dates for this seminar course.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The objectives of the CHEM 487 are to prepare you for your presentation in CHEM 488, and to prepare you for your entry into the professional world. You will attend all departmental seminars and evaluate them using nearly the same criteria that will be used to evaluate you. Additionally, you must choose a topic and prepare a 5-page paper (including 5 references) that will form the foundation for your seminar. There are few other minor assignments (see below). We will assign spring seminar dates at the end of the fall semester.

**COURSE ATTENDANCE**

You are required to attend all departmental seminars offered in the Fall semester, Mondays from 4 to 5 pm. To receive credit, you must arrive on time, behave in a professional manner during the seminar, and submit an evaluation. We will occasionally meet for different activities after the seminar is over (this will be announced in advance).

**RESUME WRITING & COVER LETTER or STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

You must attend all Career Center/Services presentations which aim to prepare you for the next steps in your career after graduation. You must create a one-page resume and write a cover letter or statement of purpose. This may be easier if you find a specific job to apply for or professional/graduate school to apply to. Instead of a cover letter, you may write a statement of purpose for a graduate school/professional school application.

**SEMINAR REPORT SEQUENCE**

A topic and two references are **due by the fifth week**. A seminar outline is **due by the tenth week**. Your 5-page seminar paper (including 5 references) is **due by the fifteenth week** and the first draft of your seminar power point presentation is **due by the sixteenth week**.

### **ADVICE FOR PREPARING A GOOD SEMINAR**

Any seminar should be prepared with the target audience in mind. You are speaking primarily to university seniors, and chemical information should be conveyed in a way that is reasonable for this level of audience. It is helpful if it is also conveyed in an interesting manner. If it will be based on your research, consult your research director early.

A literature search is the starting point for any paper or research project. A literature search is not the same as a Google search. Google Scholar and SciFinder Scholar can be used to find journal articles, but to complete a literature search you must print or photocopy the articles and *read them*. Often the best information is found by following up relevant references within your first batch of articles. Start planning a topic now.

At the end of the semester, you must submit a draft of your seminar presentation along with the power point slides. You must have five references listed in your paper, at least three of which are from refereed print journals. In addition, at least three must be a **primary source** (a journal reference where the authors are reporting **their own work**.) No web references are allowed. The power point presentation is not a written report, nor is it a transcription of everything you plan to say when presenting. You are encouraged to do your seminar on your research; however, you must consult with your faculty/research mentor before doing so.

Plagiarism will not be allowed. No copy-paste diagrams or figures are allowed. If you want to show a figure, then you must make the figure. The seminar papers will be graded by a department member in the appropriate specialty.

### **GRADING**

We will use a 1000-point scale with the highest possible score being 1000. The penalty for late assignments is 50% of the grade. No exceptions. The total possible points are as follows:

Seminar attendance and evaluation	250
Attendance at Career Center/Services presentations	90
Resume & Cover Letter (or Statement of Purpose)	160
Job Fair or Grad Fair attendance	100
Seminar Topic with two references	50
Seminar outline (outline/skeleton of written seminar paper)	50
Written seminar paper with five references	200
Seminar Power point presentation draft	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

**Title IX Statement**

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to comply with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the University's commitment to offering supportive measures in accordance with the new regulations issued under Title IX, the University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. **Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University [Protection of Minors policy](#) sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.**