CHEM 5101 (Section 004) – Organic Chemistry Division Seminar
Fall Semester, 2016

Organic Divisional Seminar: Monday, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, room 234 of the Chemistry Building
Departmental Seminar: Wednesday, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, room 101 of the Chemistry Building

Instructor: Dr. David M. Birney
Instructor contact: Office: 232C (Chemistry Building); Phone: 834-7167; Email: david.birney@ttu.edu

Course Description:
This course consists of weekly seminars on literature and research topics of current interest in organic chemistry in the organic divisional seminar and chemistry topics, broadly defined, in the weekly departmental seminar. Speakers will be graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or faculty in our department, and guests from outside the department.

Learning Outcomes:
In the organic divisional seminars, students will be exposed to recent research results from a broad range of topics in modern organic chemistry. In the departmental seminars, students will be exposed to a broader range of cutting-edge topics in chemistry and its interdisciplinary fields. In some cases, the presented findings will be so recent that they will not yet be available in the published literature.

Assessment Method:
Course grade assessment will be based upon attendance at and evaluation of organic divisional seminars as well as attendance at departmental seminars. For the departmental seminars, attendance will be recorded via a roster. For the organic divisional seminars, attendance will be recorded via either a roster, for non-student presentations, or via completion of a one-page evaluation form for student presentations. These evaluations will be provided to the student speakers after the presentation. Note that the evaluators name will be removed from the form prior to being forwarded to the speaker such that the evaluations are anonymous. The seminar schedules should be checked routinely for any changes throughout the semester; the departmental seminar schedule and the organic divisional seminar schedule can be accessed via the departmental homepage.

Grading Scale:
Attendance at 75% of the departmental and organic divisional seminars is sufficient for an A.
Attendance at 50% of the departmental and organic divisional seminars is sufficient for a B.

Academic Integrity:
It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present, as their own, any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences including possible suspension.

Disability Accommodations:
Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor’s office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please visit the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or call 806-742-2405.
Instructions to Student Presenters:
Student presentation topics shall be selected by the student speakers, but consultation with Prof. Mayer and the student’s research advisor is recommended since these presentations are part of the formal requirements for an MS or a PhD degree. Note that the Organic Division faculty expect that the seminar topic will be recent and topical, yet the material to be presented must include material that is more recent than what has been covered in the most recent review of the topic selected. The seminar requirements, as listed on pages 14-15 in the HANDBOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Texas Tech University (Revised August 2016), state:

“D. Literature Seminar Requirements
The requirements for both the M.S. and Ph.D. graduate degrees include the presentation of one acceptable literature seminar by the end of the fourth long semester. The seminar requirement is satisfied by the formal presentation of a 50-minute lecture on a specific topic that you have chosen in your major area that is not directly related to your research project. Each seminar is presented as a divisional seminar, but it must be formally announced to the department as a whole and be open for attendance by all interested listeners. Most divisions require that a written abstract of the seminar topic be prepared for distribution at the time of the seminar; if so, you must first submit this abstract to iThenticate (see Research and Future Work Exam, p. 15), and then give the results to your Research Advisor, prior to your seminar.
You should discuss the appropriateness of your chosen seminar topic with your Research Advisor and seek his/her advice during the preparation of your seminar. Furthermore, you should make a special effort to arrange for the members of your Advisory Committee to attend your seminar. The faculty attending your seminar will evaluate your performance, after which your Research Advisor will notify the Graduate Advisor when you have successfully completed this requirement. In order to assist your Research Advisor in this, present him or her with a copy of the “Report of Literature Seminar” form which can be found on the departmental website under “Current Graduate Students”; he/she must sign the form and submit it to the Graduate Advising Assistant.”

Students who are planning to present a seminar this semester should sign up for this event on the sheet posted outside Prof. Birney’s office by 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 5th.

Each student speaker will be required to prepare a 4 – 6 page written abstract, not including the cover page or the references. The abstract should have 1” margins all-around, the font should be 12 pt and the text line spacing should be 1.5. The drawing settings for the figures should be determined in consultation with the faculty advisor. It is the speaker’s responsibility to make available the abstract of the talk, to the seminar attendees, at least 10 minutes before the start of the seminar.

The title and date (and time) of the seminar as well as the speaker’s name and also the name of the division (Organic) and room number (CHEM 234) must be sent by email to Don Pathirage (don.pathirage@ttu.edu), as soon as possible but no later than 1 week before the seminar, for the purpose of formal announcement; copy Vince Wilde (vince.wilde@ttu.edu), Prof. Birney (david.birney@ttu.edu) and your research advisor on this email message.

Seminars will generally be judged as pass or fail by the faculty in attendance at the student seminar. The criteria used by the faculty are the criteria listed upon the evaluation form, see separately. In some cases, seminars may be temporarily judged as neither passing nor failing. In such cases, revision of the abstract or a short additional presentation, as determined by the faculty present, of some of the material covered may be required in order to justify passing the student, as is necessary to satisfy the formal seminar requirement for an MS or a PhD degree.

The seminar introductions will be performed by the speaker who is scheduled to follow the current speaker, except that the first speaker in the semester-long series will introduce the last speaker. Relevant information should be communicated to the introducer prior to the seminar.