Class Syllabus
Spring 2016
CHE 275/276
Supervised Problems

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Office Hours: TBA Class meeting time and place: TBA

Note: If this course number is being used as an alternate for another class, then the syllabus for that class applies.

There is a weekly meeting during the fall semester for everyone registered for this course. You are required to attend these meetings for only one semester.

The goal of this class is to give you some basic experience associated with independent laboratory research. The work is designed to prepare you for additional coursework, either in chemistry or in other disciplines, and to help you function in a technological society. This goal assumes that you have passed chemistry 133 and 134 (or their equivalents), however exceptions are possible.

The objective of this course is to introduce the student to some methods for doing independent research. One or more projects may be involved in achieving this objective. Most of the projects will be concerned with the synthesis and characterization of inorganic materials. However, there may be other projects. Assessment of this work will be based upon a written lab manual and a written end-of-term report. Guidelines for the report are available in this Syllabus for student consideration.

SECTION I – General Information

Text and Materials: A bound labbook and literature pertaining to research topic

Course Requirements: The student is expected to report to lab on schedule, maintain an up-to-date labbook, and to submit a Research Report at the end of the term.

Course Calendar: The lab is an open lab; as such, you will receive a degree of freedom in scheduling your work. Each hour of course credit translates into three hours of lab work per week. The amount of work per week is tripled during a summer session. At the beginning of the term, the student will submit a tentative work schedule, and agrees to inform the instructor about any changes. Should a problem arise, adjustments in the calendar are possible if mutually agreeable.
Grading Policy:
Attendance: The student is expected to come to lab and complete the amount of work designated in the Course Calendar.

Research Report: See the guidelines in Section III of this Syllabus

Notebook: See the guidelines in Section III of this Syllabus

Method of Evaluation: Grading scale will be pass/fail and will consist of the following:
- Attendance - 1 point
- Acceptable Research Report - 1 point
- Notebook - 1 point

Grading scale - Pass=3; Fail=2 and below. (Extenuating circumstances may lead to a grade of WH.)

Attendance Policy: See grading policy

SECTION II – University Policies

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Any student found cheating will be subject to the penalties as stated in the Student Code of Conduct handbook; including but not limited to a score of zero on exam, expulsion from the class or expulsion from the University.
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

SECTION III – Guidelines for the Labbook and the Research Report

Labbook:
You are expected to maintain a bound laboratory notebook. This will be submitted with your report at the end of the term. Remember: a laboratory notebook is considered a legal document, and as such, certain rules must be followed. Guidelines for maintaining a proper lab book are available for student consideration. To maintain legal status no items are to be recorded elsewhere, no items are to be deleted or covered up in any way, and no pages are to be removed. The lab book should have the first one or two pages reserved for a table of contents. Each day's work should be dated, and the starting and ending times listed. Additional details on properly maintaining a lab book will be discussed as appropriate.

Research Report:
The following pages contain the guidelines for the Research Report.
Title of Project (24 font)
Name (20 font)

Chemistry Research (24 font)
Chemistry number (24 font)

Dr. R.H. Langley (20 font)

Term (16 font)
Date (16 font)
Abstract
A short summary of what you did. You do not need more than one paragraph.

Introduction
This should be one or two paragraphs giving an overview of the project.

Experimental
For Chemistry 275 and 276, this should be a simplified description of the experimental procedure(s).

Results
This should be one or two paragraphs telling what you found. A table may help to summarize this information. It is possible to combine this section with the Discussion section. This is a listing of results.

Discussion
Discuss what you found. This section is primarily you explaining what you found; this will probably include answering one or more of the following questions. Were the results what you predicted? Were the samples pure? Is there anything else that should be done in the future?

Acknowledgements
This section may not be necessary. If you got help from outside the research group, you should mention this.

References
If you used any published reference material, you should list these items here using proper citation format.