

CHEM 4601 Syllabus

Chemistry Seminar, Section A, 2 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Lynn Kamerlin

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General Course Information

Description

Chemistry Seminar (CHEM 4601) is a 2-credit lecture course on reading, critically discussing, and presenting biochemical research.

Course Objectives

CHEM 4601 is designed to teach students how to:

- Read the biochemical literature
- Give oral scientific presentations of biochemical research
- Present a scientific poster on biochemical research using an elevator pitch
- Engage in productive discussions about biochemical research

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically review the biochemical literature
- Prepare and give an oral scientific presentation
- Prepare and give a scientific poster presentation

Required Course Materials

Teaching materials will be provided to students via Canvas. Students are encouraged to select research articles that are publicly available through open access or the Georgia Tech Library. Posters may be printed at several locations on campus:

- School of Chemistry and Biochemistry – free of charge, facilitated by Dr. Kamerlin
- Georgia Tech Library – paid by the student: <https://library.gatech.edu/poster-request>
- Paper & Clay – paid by the student: <https://studentcenter.gatech.edu/paper-clay>

Grading Policy:

40% - Seminars

30% - Attendance and Class Participation

20% - Poster

10% - Homework

Final Grade Delineation:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = <60

Description of Graded Components

SEMINARS: Each student will give a 4-minute “mini-seminar” and a 25-minute full seminar (20 min + 5 min for questions/answers and audience feedback) during the semester. Note that depending on the number of students enrolled in the class, this may have to become a 20 minute seminar (15+5) to accommodate more talks. We will, however, not go longer than a 20 min seminar. Guidelines will be provided on Canvas. As part of the class participation, students will have the opportunity to give and receive feedback on oral presentations.

ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend class in person and engage in class discussions during each class session. Details provided below under “Course Policies”.

NOTE: Canvas automatically imposes a **20-point deduction for tardiness** to class. It is important to arrive to class on time (i.e. before the first presenter) to avoid disruptions and distractions during student presentations. Please allot sufficient time for commuting to campus and to the classroom.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS: Students will prepare and present a scientific poster on an approved paper chosen by the student. A draft poster will be required for feedback prior to the final poster submission date. The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry will provide free poster printing by the advanced deadline. Any students who fail to meet this deadline must print their poster at their own cost. Students and faculty members of the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry will be invited to the poster session. Morning refreshments will be provided.

HOMEWORK: Reading comprehension assignments for assigned journal articles and video quizzes, and reflections on class presentations, and/or other types of assignments will be given.

Note: A 10% per day late penalty deduction will apply to all assignments unless otherwise specified by Dr. Kamerlin.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Students are expected to attend class in person and engage in class discussions during each class session. Students will need to share ideas openly and engage in class activities verbally and in writing. Given that we cannot feasibly offer make-up opportunities for missed class discussions, some participation activities may be made up to accommodate student absenteeism due to illness or emergencies. I plan to offer as much flexibility as I feasibly can, but real-time communication is essential.

In the event of an illness or medical emergency, please do not come to class! Contact me via email as soon as possible. Ongoing absences should be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and will be addressed based on guidance from the Dean of Students' Office and/or my discretion.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

Students must have earned a minimum grade of “D” in both of the following prerequisites:

- CHEM 4511: Biochemistry I
- CHEM 4512: Biochemistry II

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

While presentations and posters are presented individually, it is ok to collaborate with others on preparing materials if you find that helpful. Students should **not** use AI for generating presentation or poster drafts. Further, while Generative AI can be very helpful for accelerating literature searches, please be mindful that it can flat out make up papers that don’t exist etc., so if you do use Generative AI to help you with background reading, please use it as a starting point not an end point and make sure to validate everything. Please acknowledge any use of Generative AI in your work, and describe what oversight was used.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Late assignments will be penalized by 10% per day after the deadline. You will be able to select your slots for flash talks and oral presentations on Canvas, so you can work around known institute approved absences when planning your presentation slots. If you are unable to present at short notice due to sickness or unexpected institute approved reasons, please let me know as soon as possible. The course schedule is very tight to ensure all students are given an opportunity to present, and re-scheduling can only be accommodated if the course schedule constraints allow, therefore make-up opportunities cannot be guaranteed.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

- Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop

by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))