**Instructor/Coordinator:** Associate Chair (Graduate)

**Scheduling:**

Chemistry 9657/9658 are the graduate seminar courses that runs concurrently; MSc students complete 9657 and PhD students complete 9658. All students attend both 9657 and 9658 seminars until they complete the course requirements. This is a milestone that appears on your transcript as "Seminar" and will be marked as "Completed" once you have presented your seminar and met the attendance requirements.

MSc students in Chem 9657 will be scheduled to deliver their seminar in the first (Fall) term. MSc presentations are required to be 15 - 20 minutes, with a 5-minute question period directly following their presentation. Students enrolled for 4 complete terms (or more) will be scheduled before students enrolled for three completed terms. TWO MSc presentations will be scheduled back-to-back in the same seminar slot.

PhD students scheduled for 9658 are required to deliver a 30 - 35 minute seminar followed by a question period of approximately 10 minutes. Doctoral students will be scheduled for presentation following the completion of MSc level seminars. One doctoral presentation will be made per seminar slot.

**Weight:** 0.5

**Course objectives:**

- To study and critically appraise a research topic of current interest.
- To explain the topic in the form of a public seminar including a sufficient amount of technical detail appropriate for a general (interdisciplinary) audience; the emphasis should be on depth and clarity rather than on the amount of material.
- To acquire confidence in public speaking, dealing with verbal questions and peer critique.
- To develop an appreciation for the challenges of scientific communication and breadth of chemical research.
- To learn how to evaluate public presentations by peers, participate in discussion and generate thoughtful inquiries based on the presented material.
- To strengthen various soft skills: critical analysis of data, time management, etc.

**Description**

Seminars are to be designed to inform the audience about a specific research area/topic. The information should be communicated with a general chemical audience in mind so that they are able to understand the material. A good guideline is to imagine you are presenting to an undergraduate chemistry class in the second term of their second year.

Students scheduled to deliver their presentation in the coming academic year are to attend a mandatory Chem 9657/9658 organizational meeting, which will be scheduled when classes officially begin. Students are encouraged to remember that quality is better than quantity. Selecting one or two publications of current interest and fully explaining the underlying theory(ies), results and conclusions is much more effective than giving a loose description of a larger number of papers.

**Topic selection** Topic Form

Topic selection and lecture requirements criteria for students in the MSc or PhD program **are not identical**. Please make sure you adhere to the appropriate guidelines. Approval of the topic/seminar plan is to be confirmed by your committee either by signing the topic approval form, or by a confirmation email from your committee. Topic approvals must be forwarded to the Graduate Chair no later than **8 weeks** prior to your scheduled seminar date.

**MSc Students - 9657**

Topics should be related to the student's research area. Students are expected to select **one** or **two** key references that are critical to understanding the foundational chemistry of their thesis. The papers cannot be review articles. Students are to draft a one-page summary (2.5 cm margins; Times Roman 12 pt. font) of the papers and describe how they relate to the student's research. A well drafted abstract for the seminar is to be included along with the topic approval form in a single PDF document with the topic form at the top. This document should be sent to the graduate assistant who will then send it on to the supervisory committee and Graduate Chair for signatures . Key reference material is to come from the primary literature (not review articles) and the topic choices should not have been presented in the last two years.

**PhD Students - 9658**

Topics are to be unrelated to the student's research area and should be discussed in detail with their supervisors prior to seeking approval from their supervisory committee. Once a suitable topic has been identified with input from the supervisor, students are to draft a one page summary of the topic and an additional one page summary of their current research (2.5 cm margins; Times Roman 12 pt. font). These documents as well as a well drafted abstract for the seminar are to be included with the topic approval form in a single PDF document with the approval form at the top. This document should be sent to the graduate assistant who will then send it on to the supervisory committee and Graduate Chair for signatures. Key reference material is to come from the primary literature (not review articles) and the topic choices should not have been presented in the last two years.

**Evaluation**

Immediately following the presentation(s) for the day, the students will meet with the members of their committee, whom were in attendance, to receive comprehensive feedback and assignment of a PASS/FAIL performance for the seminar. There is no numeric grade for this course but will appear as complete on the transcript at the end of the seminar series.

All faculty members in attendance, except for the supervisor, will complete the grading rubric online for the sole use of scoring in the Lipson-Baines award competition. Non-numeric feedback provided by the faulty will be forwarded to the presenters.

**Notification of Seminar:**

One week prior to the seminar, most effectively right after the previous seminar, the student will circulate his/her abstract and bibliography by email to the department. This email should include the date, time and place of the seminar, the presenter's name, research supervisor and committee member names as well as the abstract. A reminder email will be sent by the presenter the morning of the day of presentation.

For example:

## Title: 1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (TAD)-based click and transclick reactions: The new era of ultrafast and reversible click chemistry for polymer systems

**Rajeshwar Vasdev**
**Supervisor: Dr. Workentin**
**Committee: Dr. R.J. Puddephatt, Dr. L. Luyt, Dr. M. Kartunnen**
**Presentation Date: September 6, 2018, 12:30 pm**
**Location: KB K106**
**(or ZOOM link)**

**[abstract removed]**

**Attendance:**

Students in a graduate program at Western must obtain some breadth with respect to their discipline to successfully complete their degree programs. Part of this breadth requirement is achieved by regular attendance and participation in scientific seminar programs or colloquia. To obtain credit in Chem 9657/8, students must obtain a 65% attendance rate (based on the number of 9657/8 seminars in the academic year) from the combined total of both Chemistry 9657/8. This attendance requirement will be maintained **up to and including** the year they present their own 9657/8 seminar. If the attendance requirement is not met, a FAIL will be assigned and students will be required to repeat the seminar requirement before successful completion of the graduate program.

Graduate students whose primary location of research is off the main campus, can be accommodated through a video connection for the seminar, with permission of the course coordinator.

Each graduate student must present one graduate seminar to the Department per degree program. MSc candidates will participate in Chem 9657; Ph.D. candidates will participate in Chem 965. The requirement must be met before submission of the thesis. Under normal circumstances, the 9657/8 seminar will be done in year two of the M.Sc. program, in year three of a direct entry Ph.D., and for those who transferred into the Ph.D. program after their first year report, they will present their seminar in their 3rd year of studies after initial registration in the graduate program (i.e. their 3rd year of graduate studies). Students whom complete a Masters degree (with 9657) and later enroll in a Ph.D. program are required to complete Chem 9658 (seminar and attendance).

**Plagiarism:**

"Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s) and you must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words."

In the context of a literature review presentation, you are discouraged from using material from a previous review or paper verbatim. For example, it is better to redraw reaction schemes than to "cut-and-paste" them, and it is better to write text in your own words. If you do use "cut-and-paste" you must put text in quotation marks and give the source for any graphics. In the context of C9657/8, it is unacceptable to base your presentation on a previous review. There may be reviews in the broad area, but your presentation should be based mostly on recent primary literature. It is recommended to avoid topics that have been the subject of recent reviews unless there are mitigating circumstances. If there are potential problems of this kind, it is your responsibility to draw the attention of your committee members to the issue before the topic is approved. If plagiarism is detected at a later stage, it will be grounds for failure of the presentation.

**Notes on Academic Honesty:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

The required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)

**Graduate Course Health and Wellness Insert for Graduate Course Outlines**

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http:// www.health.uwo.ca/. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.

**The Lipson Baines Award**

Former Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and an advocate, leader, and life-long supporter of Western University, Rob Lipson established the Lipson-Baines Award in Chemistry. The award will be given annually to two full-time Masters or Doctoral students in Chemistry who have achieved the best performance in the Chemistry 9657/8 "Seminar" course, also considering attendance and participation in discussion Q & A.

Rob Lipson established the award in appreciation of what he considers to be one of the finest Chemistry departments in Canada. The scholarship also honors his lasting friendship with Professor Kim M. Baines and acknowledges the contributions she made as Chair from 2005-2014.

For more than a quarter of a century Lipson and Baines, through their respective research and management efforts, catalyzed growth, research productivity and training excellence in the Department of Chemistry. The Lipson-Baines Award will serve to further encourage excellence among Western Chemistry graduates and is an enduring reminder of the devotion of Western faculty to their students.

A link to the on-line form is sent to faculty from the Graduate Assistant

Chemistry 9657Y and 9658Y: Graduate Seminar Course Outline 2022/23

Student name:_____ Faculty Initials:_____

| **Criteria** | **Unsatisfactory** | | **Average** | | **Excellent** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Presentation: Overall. Interesting topic, appropriate length, good story, effective handling of the material and demonstration of main concepts. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Presentation: Scientific Content. Appropriate Breadth and Depth, right level of the discussion for the audience, chemistry content. All main concepts introduced and properly discussed. Broader research context provided. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Presentation: Technical-1. Structure, Organization, consistent, legible, good use of colour, uncluttered slides, proper use of literature, proper references | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Presentation: Technical-2. Figures/plots easy to see and clearly explained. Info is relevant. Technical jargon minimized. Appropriate use of multimedia. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Delivery: Speaker: Presented with confidence. Good eye contact, Posture, Body language, laser pointer use. Stimulated audience attention | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Delivery: Oration. Volume, tempo, flow, enthusiasm, transitions, articulation | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Presentation: Summary. Concise and Scientifically Sound conclusions, analysis of goals, hypotheses, results, limitations, future work. Take home message. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Comprehension. Questions answered with confidence/clarity. Good understanding of the topic concepts and broader context. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Presentation: Comprehension. Good understanding of the topic was evident. Topic well explained. Critical assessment of the scientific content was present. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Overall impression of the seminar. | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

| Overall Score: /50 |
|---|

**Chem 9657/9658 Topic Approval Form**

Student Name:_____

Date: _____

Presentation Date:_____ Presentation Type: ☐ 9657 ☐ 9658

Topic approvals should be granted provided the students have met the requirements in the Chem 9657/9658 Course outline:

(http://www.uwo.ca/chem/graduate/course_information/index.htm)

I have included a proposed title. Yes ☐ No ☐

A one page summary of the topic is included. Yes ☐ No ☐

A one page description of my research is included. Yes ☐ No ☐

A draft of my abstract is included (with key references). Yes ☐ No ☐

| | Name | Signature |
|---|---|---|
| Supervisor: | | |
| Departmental Examiner #1: | | |
| Departmental Examiner #2: | | |
| Supervisory Committee member: | | |
| Associate Chair (Graduate): | | |

Comments: