

CHEMISTRY 372 ADVANCED LAB: INORGANIC

Fall 2009 course syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

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OFFICE HOURS

A schedule of where you can find me throughout the week is posted on my office door and on my schedule is posted on my website (<http://chemistry.kenyon.edu/cummings/schedule.htm>).
You are welcome and encouraged to meet with me throughout the semester.

MEETING TIME

Experimental work is scheduled for Wednesdays from 1:10-4 in Tomsich 001 (Advanced Lab Room). The lab will be open from 12-5 pm for you to complete work, and *may* be available at other times during the week. Some of the instruments used in this course are used by other students for research and other courses, so it is important to plan your experiments prior to class and work efficiently. Plan for additional time each week to prepare for upcoming experiments and to analyze data and assemble a results summary.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

1. acquire new knowledge on *coordination compounds*: synthesis, structure, reactivity, redox and excited-state properties
2. reinforce knowledge of *physical chemistry* (kinetics, thermodynamics, excited states), *synthetic methods* and *instrumental methods* (spectroscopy and electroanalytical)
3. improved *experimental design*: planning, coordinating efforts, identifying and solving problems
4. improved *data analysis*: drawing tenable conclusions from experimental evidence and identifying magnitude and sources of uncertainty.
5. improved *writing skills*: producing full lab reports that emulate the format and style of a primary research paper.
6. improved *laboratory citizenship*: working safely, cooperatively, cleanly, with responsible use of resources and time

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Prerequisites:

CHEM 234: *Organic Chemistry Lab II* (or permission of instructor) is a prerequisite. This course is designed to complement the material in *Inorganic Chemistry* (CHEM 343), and *Chemical Kinetics and Thermodynamics* (CHEM 335) and *Instrumental Analysis* (CHEM 341), but not all students in this lab course will have (yet) completed those courses. Your notes and textbooks from these courses may be helpful, though.

B. Attendance:

Attendance is an essential part of this course. Students are expected to work for a complete afternoon each week. In the event of an emergency or unavoidable conflict, please notify the instructor and members of your research team as soon as possible. I call your attention to the college policy on class attendance in the *Course of Study*:

“Absences for reasons of illness are not ordinarily excused: only when a student is declared by the College physician to be infirm (in a hospital or at home) will a health report be sent from the Health and Counseling Center to the dean of students, giving the days when each patient is judged infirm and recommending that the student’s class absences be excused.”

C. Materials:

1. **laboratory notebook:** A laboratory notebook is one of the most important parts of experimental chemistry. Obtain a lab notebook with carbons, either from a previous chemistry lab course or from the Kenyon Bookstore. A handout on proper use of a laboratory notebook will be provided.
2. **safety goggles** (you purchased for previous chemistry lab courses)
3. **three-ring binder** for experimental procedures, handouts and spectra
4. **calculator**

D. Assignments:

In addition to the afternoon laboratory session, students are expected to spend time preparing for upcoming work, analyzing and interpreting experimental results and reviewing background readings and relevant primary research articles. For most experiments, a brief online **Pre-lab Quiz** will be due by Tuesday evening before lab, and a **Result Summary** will be due by the following Monday morning. Two full **Laboratory Reports** will be due during the semester. Reports will have the format of a primary journal (*JACS*) article. Please consult the Chemistry Department document *A BRIEF GUIDE TO WRITING IN CHEMISTRY*. Further details of these assignments and due dates will be given in class.

E. Exam:

A final exam is scheduled for **Dec 19, 8:30-11:30 am**.

GRADING

Course grade will be based on the following distribution:

pre-lab quizzes:	10%
Results Summaries and notebook pages:	20%
reports (2):	40%
final exam:	20%
effort (preparation, participation, independence and creativity):	10%

The total points earned will be used to assign a letter grade. Assignments in this course are often open-ended. There is no limit to what you are expected to do, so please don't ask "is this enough?" Do your best work and demonstrate that you are learning. This class is NOT graded on a "curve". You are NOT competing against your peers for a grade.

COLLEGE POLICIES

A. academic honesty:

I call to your attention the College Policy on Academic Honesty, see the Kenyon College Course of Study. *When writing laboratory reports or topic papers, please be aware of issues of plagiarism.*

B. students with disabilities:

If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom or test accommodations please see me as soon as possible during a scheduled office hour. If you have not already done so, you must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services (Erin Salva, salvae@kenyon.edu, x5145), who is the individual responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities. All information and documentation of disability is strictly confidential. No accommodations will be granted in this course without notification from the Office of Disability Services.

C. athletics and extra-curricular activities:

If your participation in athletics or extra-curricular activities conflicts with a class, scheduled exam time or assignment due date, please let me know as soon as possible.