Syllabus for Chem 280 (Nizkorodov’s section)

Last modified on: November 29, 2022

Instructor: Prof. Sergey Nizkorodov, nizkorod@uci.edu

Quarters offered: This course is offered every Fall, Winter, Spring each year.

Location: RH 385 and collaborating laboratories

Website: https://aerosol.chem.uci.edu/classes/index.htm

Pre-requisites: this course is open to chemistry graduate students, who are formally advised in research by Prof. Sergey Nizkorodov

Units: This course has variable unit value of 2-12 units. First-year students typically take enough courses to meet their full-time student requirement of 12 units, so they are not likely to sign up for more than 4 units. Continuing students should plan sign up for 8-12 units. For students supported from grants, it is normal to sign up for 12 units of Chem 280 and 4 units of Chem 291. For students employed as TAs, some of the 280 units may be replaced by Chem 399 (University Teaching, 1-4 units). Please do not exceed 16 total units.

Grading option: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

Minimal requirements: To achieve a satisfactory (S) grade in this course, the students are expected to:

1. Make progress towards your Ph.D research. This includes experiments, data analysis, literature research, computational work, paper writing, thesis writing, etc. during weeks 1-10 and the finals week in accordance with the attendance policy (see below).
2. Provide weekly updates on their work to the instructor in weeks 1-10 of the quarter. The updates can take form of a brief meeting or a written document.
3. Provide a summary of the research results during the quarter at the end of the finals week, along with a brief plan for next quarter. A possible format is a bulleted list of accomplishments and plans, along with copies of completed paper drafts and/or major presentations.

Attendance policy: The time devoted to Chem 280 each week should reflect the unit value allocation for this course. The students should plan with the instructor all the expected absences due to external fellowship and internship obligations before the start of the quarter. The students should notify the instructor about unexpected absences sickness or family emergencies.

Communications policy: the instructor and students should aim to respond to all research related communications between each other within 24 hours.

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1 UCI’s unit value is modeled on the Carnegie unit, which allows one unit of credit for three hours of academic study by the student per week (Senate Regulation 760). A full-time student commitment (12 units) corresponds to 36 hours of academic effort in this model.