Chemistry 698: Graduate Research in Chemistry
Syllabus
Spring, 2004

Instructor: David Butcher
Where to find me: Belk 289, x7646, x3808 (direct line)
ST-348 (research lab), phone: 3901
E-mail: butcher@email.wcu.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00
Meeting Times: TBA

Course Description: Graduate research (CHEM 698) is the ultimate experience in hands-on
learning. This “course” is the logical extension, and an application, of all the lecture and
laboratory classes that you have been taking as an undergraduate and graduate student.

Expectations: You need to treat this course as you do any other; that is you need to spend a
predictable and consistent amount of time in the lab. The expectation for this course is that you
will spend at least 9 hours each week in the laboratory. However, you also need to be flexible
with those hours. Perhaps the most important aspect of the graduate research experience that I
would like to stress, other than having fun, is that safety is should be your ultimate concern.
EVERYONE is required to wear safety glasses while in the lab. Lab coats are also a good idea
because they protect clothing and skin. In that vein, I would like to stress the need for a clean
and orderly lab; accidents are less likely to occur and glassware less likely to be broken when
the dishes are washed and put away promptly.

Evaluation: Although the graduate program coordinator serves as the instructor of
record for this course, the grade is assigned by me. Your grade in this research course is
based upon weekly presentations, your notebook, and the progress of your work,
indicated by weekly graduate research report sheets (p. 2). This report is a summary of
your progress on your research for the week, including project planning, experiments
performed, and thesis writing. The reports should be handed in seminar class on
Monday. The notebook, which remains in the lab with me at the end of the semester,
should contain enough detail so that someone else reading it would be able to repeat the
experiment and get the same results.

Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation for Meeting</td>
<td>33 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly report sheets</td>
<td>33 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notebook</td>
<td>33 %</td>
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Weekly Graduate Research Report Sheet

Name: ____________________________  Director: David Butcher

Project: ____________________________  Week: ____________________________

Research Notebook ID: ____________  Notebook Pages: _________________

Objectives (may include planning, writing prospectus, doing experiments, writing thesis):

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Work performed to achieve objectives (may include planning, writing prospectus, doing experiments, writing thesis):

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5.