

CHEM 505 Chemical Literature

Class: 1200-1250 M, W McCracken 4420

Online practice sessions: TBA

Prerequisites

none

Text

Handouts will take the place of formal texts.

Selected texts will be placed on reserve.

Instructor

[Dr. John B. Miller](#)

Office Hours

McCracken 4020

M 1500-1600

387-2871

R 1300-1400

john.b.miller@wmich.edu or by appointment

Course Topic Schedule:

| Week | Topic | Additional Information |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9/3 | Introduction | |
| 9/8-9/10 | Primary Literature | |
| 9/15-9/17 | Review Literature Handbooks & Tables | |
| 9/22 | WMU Resources (Buckner) | Assignment 1 due (W) |
| 9/24 | Beilstein | |
| 9/29-10/1 | Gmelin Abstracts & Indices | |
| 10/6-10/8 | Chemical Abstracts | Assignment 2 due (W) |
| 10/13-10/15 | CAS Online | |
| 10/20-10/22 | CAS Online | |
| 10/27-10/29 | CAS Online | Assignment 3 due (W) |
| 11/3-11/5 | Online Databases | Final Project Topics Due (W) |
| 11/10-11/12 | Online Databases Internet Resources | |
| 11/17-11/19 | Workshop Project Strategy Review | Assignment 4 due (W) |
| 11/24 | Workshop | |
| 12/1-12/3 | Student Presentations | Final Projects Due (M) |
| 12/8-12/10 | Student Presentations | |

Assignments

Four brief assignments will be given. The tasks involved will typically require locating a particular set of information items or sources from the chemical literature. Where possible, these will be linked to the student's research interests.

Late Work Policy

Late assignments and final projects will be assessed a penalty of **15% per week**.

Reports more than *three* weeks late will **not** be accepted.

Final projects more than *two* weeks late will **not** be accepted.

Project

The student will select a topic to search, as if preparing a research proposal or writing a comprehensive review. The topic should be broad enough to be interesting, but narrow enough to be finite. It should also make use of several (>5) different *types* of literature resources. The topic should be discussed with and approved by Dr. Miller (well before the due date). To maximize the benefit of this exercise for the student, the topic should be related to ongoing or planned research, or similar work activity. At the completion of the project, a 2-3 page (*at least*) synopsis of the information found during the search will be prepared and handed in, as will a complete bibliography. To be certain the student is on track, there will be an interim review of the search strategy, topic breadth, and search results.

Presentation

The student will give a brief presentation describing:

Why the search topic was selected

The sources used (and why)

What the most productive search technique(s) were, and why

How the search could have been improved

An outline of the presentation will also be submitted.

Online Resources

Online computer resources will be available for use in this course. Each student will be given a computer account for use in the course. Most resources can be accessed through the World-Wide Web at the URL <http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/~millerj/chem505/chem505.htm>.

Computer facilities are available in the basement of the Bernhard Center, in the UCC labs, and in McCracken 5160. Dialup connections via the University modem pool (387-2040) may also be used (contact the UCS help desk for detailed information about dialup). Complete instruction in the basic use of these online resources will be provided as required.

Grading

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|-----------------------|------------------|-----|
| Assignments | 80 (4@20) points | 40% |
| Student Presentations | 20 points | 10% |
| Final Project | 100 points | 50% |
| TOTAL | 200 points | |

Current individual scores will be posted on the class web site

(<http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/~millerj/chem505/grades.htm>).