

University of Texas at El Paso: Department of Chemistry  
**SYLLABUS FOR DISSERTATION**  
CHEM 5398/6398 or CHEM 5399/6399

Dissertation CHEM 5398/6398 is taken when work on the dissertation begins, usually in the penultimate semester.

Dissertation CHEM 5399/6399 is taken when work on the dissertation is being finished, usually in the last semester before graduation.

Continuous enrollment is required while work on dissertation continues.

Prerequisite: CHEM 5398

**SCHEDULE:** Consult with the research faculty and the Chemistry Graduate Advisor

**INSTRUCTOR AND CRN:** See online course scheduling.

**REQUIRED MATERIAL:** Consult with instructor, varies by project.

**PREREQUISITE:** Department approval. Fees required.

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

Enrollment in CHEM 5398/6398 and CHEM 5399/6399 requires Departmental Approval based on a prior arrangement between the student enrollee and a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry agreeing to mentor the project. Credit for the course shall be awarded to a student for fulfilling the requirements of the agreement between faculty member and student, normally for conducting an original independent research investigation in chemistry under the supervision of the faculty mentor. Each project will differ, but will routinely relate to the chemical literature such that reading of original research articles will be involved. The project so conducted will often involve experimental measurements subject to statistical analysis. A written summary of the project conducted is required at the conclusion of the project.

Graduate students will take their regular (lecture) courses and perform the duties of their TA assignments (if applicable). Students in the graduate program are expected to contribute the balance of their time doing research in a research group as explained in the program description and as mentored by their supervising professors. The contact hours do not correlate with the credit hours of the course numbers. These research course credits are used to satisfy the enrollment-hours requirement of the graduate program.

**GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Each research project is designed by the faculty in charge. Attendance and grading policy are discussed with each student for each project. In general, the time commitment described above is expected. Grades are assigned with respect to attendance, completion of work, and demonstration of a good working attitude and effort.

**SAFETY:**

Safety protocols are very important part of the course content and will be discussed with the student by the instructor. In general, you are required to wear proper attire in the laboratory. For each lab, you will need to wear safety eyewear, long pants, and full cover shoes (no sandals). Rubber gloves will be provided. Lab coats are recommended. Read, sign, and return the safety agreement page given to you at the beginning of the semester. Please observe all safety requirements that have been explained to you in your previous lab courses at UTEP. If you have any questions about determining correct safety protocols, please ask the instructors.

**DISABILITIES:** If you have a disability that may affect your performance of the assigned laboratory activities, you must register with the University's office and give proper notification to the instructor of this course within two weeks of the beginning of the semester. Special arrangements can only be made under these circumstances.

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