Chemistry 6401 – Seminar: Physical Chemistry
Course Syllabus Spring 2017
(see also http://jila.colorado.edu/weberlabs/course-CHEM6401.html)

Instructor: J. Mathias Weber
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Office Hours: Thursdays 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Course type: Seminar and discussion session

Content and objectives:
We have presentations of current research in physical chemistry by faculty or guests each week in
the framework of the Physical Chemistry/Chemical Physics Colloquium. This lecture series
brings the national and international physical chemistry community to our doorstep.

The course accompanying this colloquium offers the unique opportunity for you to interact with
our speakers from near and far, and serves to broaden your scientific horizon significantly. You
will meet the speaker before each colloquium and discuss research topics related to the subject of
their work, including appropriate journal articles.

Homework assignments:
Some journal articles related to the research of the speaker will be listed each week. You will be
required to read these articles carefully to prepare for the discussion session. In addition,
everyone will have to turn in at least two questions in writing each week, related to the posted
journal articles. The deadline is Friday morning before 9 am. You can give your written questions
to me in person, slide them under my office door or send them by email.

Grades:
Attendance in both the discussion session and in the colloquium is mandatory each week, and
each of you should ask at least one question in each discussion session. Grades will be based on
your participation in the discussion session and on the written questions you turn in. What you
also should know is that the first question after each colloquium talk will have to come from one
of you, and questions from you during the general discussion are always welcome. Your level of
contribution over the semester will be taken into account for the course grade. The discussions
during the seminar and colloquium will be moderated by myself or by faculty hosting the
speaker....

.....OK, this sounds all right for a set of rules, but a little stiff for a class focused on discussion, so
here are some additional thoughts: I want to make it clear that you should see the course as an
enrichment for yourself, an opportunity to interact with people that you would not usually meet. I
also want to point out that there are no “stupid questions” that would “damage” your grade. There
are two things I want to avoid: (i) you being passive and quiet throughout the sessions, or (ii) the
equivalent of this, you asking more or less the same question of the speaker every week. What I
sincerely hope for are lively discussions where we all can enjoy our love for science.

Literature:
Links to journal articles related to the research of the speakers will be posted on the course web
page at least one week before the seminar.
Students with Disabilities:
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries guidelines under the Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

Religious Observances:
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, attendance is mandatory for both the discussion session and the colloquium talk. Please indicate any such conflicts to me at least one week in advance of the conflicting date, preferably during the first week of classes.

Classroom Behavior:
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior (http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the student code.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:
The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU’s Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder’s Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website (http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Honor Code:
All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of the institution (http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy). Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at honorcode.colorado.edu.