

CHEM 3360 / TOX 3360

Guide (Template) to Guest Lecturer Reviews

Please read all of these instructions / directions / suggestions.

Each of the four reviews is worth 5% of your final grade, totaling 20% of the final mark. The review you write will consist of two parts. Part 1 is your review / evaluation of the speaker's topic. Part 2 are your answers to any questions posed by the lecturer, either verbally or in writing.

Each student is expected to complete a review / evaluation of the topic in four pages or less. It can be single or double-spaced, 12 pica, min.: it doesn't matter, as long as your points are clear, concise, and complete. Any pertinent references must be attached to the review for consideration of your arguments. For example, a speaker could present an idea that you personally consider worthy of additional reading. A copy of the abstract of the paper you read is then required to help me grade your review.

It is expected that each student will see and hear slightly different points of emphasis following the speaker's talk. This is natural, which is why a casual discussion among your peers is encouraged: compare your thoughts and notes.

I will be looking for the following in some form. Besides your full name and i.d., the Guest Lecturer's name and where he / she is from and what his / her job entails. The Topic. An abstract and an Introduction of the talk. The main focus of the talk and its relevance to Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology. A Conclusion. Your personal thoughts on the Speaker's area of study, and of course a scientific argument, if there is agreement or disagreement, of the topic.

A typical review could be as follows: Say we just heard a talk from an Environmental Chemist / Toxicologist interested in the chemical influences of butterfly migration. The talk provided clear arguments why Toxicologists believe anthropogenic sources of chemicals, particularly Brominated flame-retardants, have been disrupting the annual migration of Monarch butterflies. The evidence presented discussing chemicals X and W and their impact on the butterflies clearly argued that the potential for biological impact is not necessarily entirely acute or even immediately life threatening, but does have clear chemical effects on the butterflies – a phenomenon not predicted in any toxicology models. A paper by B. Flyer, 1999, has confirmed the evidence in an independent study (see attached).

Overall Grading: abstract: 15%, intro: 15%, talk summary: 30%, conclusions and references: 10%, lecturer questions (if any): 30%, otherwise the 30% will be weighted to the talk summary and your conclusions and references. Remember, you have no more than 4 pages to complete the assignment. Any figures and graphs, etc., are not counted in the total.