

## CHEN 4020 (Senior Thesis) Course Summary for Spring Semester

### Instructor

Dr. Thomas Belval (thomas.belval@colorado.edu)  
Office hrs: by appointment

### Course Objectives

Learn the rudiments of planning, executing, and critically assessing scientific research.

Develop more proficiency at reporting technical work in different formats: oral presentations, posters, and a written thesis.

Add new knowledge by performing scientific research under the guidance of a research advisor.

### Course Method

Students will work under the supervision of a faculty member or equivalent.

Students will communicate their progress in a series of reports, oral and written, ending with a written thesis.

### Course Schedule

See the Schedule doc in D2L.

### Grading basis

- A = 90-100 % of possible course points
- B = 80-90 %
- C = 70-80 %
- D = 60-70 %

### Course points split (for spring semester)

Assessed item	Weight	Remark
Outline for Final Thesis Report	10 pts	I will assess the outline: full credit if outline submitted; zero credit if outline not submitted. (Core function of outline is to support planning of report with research advisor.)
Final Thesis Report	60 pts	I and research advisor will separately assess the report. My assessment will focus on the quality of writing, and that the science looks plausible to a non-expert. The advisor will assess the quality and depth of the science as a technical expert.
Final Oral Presentation	30 pts	Only I will assess the oral presentation. My assessment will focus on how effectively the OP communicates the research.
TOTAL	100 pts	

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