

## MSE 559: Soft Materials Seminar, Fall 2023

**Instructors:** Antonia Statt [statt@illinois.edu](mailto:statt@illinois.edu)

**Schedule:** Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 pm, 100 MSEB

**Course Website:** <https://canvas.illinois.edu/courses/40439>

### Objectives:

Students will be able to present their own scientific research to an audience of peers in an informative and accessible form. Furthermore, students will learn about contemporary soft materials research from presenters that are already established in their professional careers.

### Course Evaluation:

The seminar grade is based on attendance and participation. **If you have more than 3 unexcused absences for the semester, you will receive an unsatisfactory grade.** For those students that are scheduled to give a presentation, if you miss your presentation without notifying the instructors, you will also receive an unsatisfactory grade. Excused absences are for medical or professional reasons only, such as job interview, participation to conferences, or off-campus research activities, and must be approved by the instructors in advance. Submit your request through this form: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1370359532>, emails will not be accepted. Students with approved excused absences need to watch the recorded seminars posted on Canvas to count for attendance.

### Presentations:

Each seminar will start with a safety presentation, followed by two student speakers (15-20 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions) or one postdoc/faculty speaker (full 45-50 minutes). The schedule of the presentations for this semester is located at the end of this document. If you have been selected to present on a given day and you have a schedule conflict, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor well in advance so that your presentation can be rescheduled. All presentations will be delivered in person.

### Grade Reporting:

All attendance will be determined from taking attendance in 100 MSEB before the seminar, and thus it will be important that you attend in a timely manner. **Random attendance checks will be performed during the semester. If a student is registered as attendee and is not present during these checks, it will be viewed as an academic integrity violation and such dishonesty will result in an unsatisfactory grade immediately. A zero-tolerance policy will be implemented.** All attendance records will be stored on Canvas. Any errors in grade reporting appearing on Canvas must be reported within 2 weeks of the due date of the assessment item or by the last day of class, whichever is earlier.

**Each talk will have approx. three students randomly assigned to ask a question. In addition, each talk will have approx. three randomly assigned reviewers, who will write 1/3 page review on the overall quality, content, educational quality, and style of presentation. These assignments will be published on Canvas beforehand and are due either in class in-person (questions) or due a week after the presentation on Canvas (reviews). The reviews will be distributed to the speaker to help them improve the quality of their presentations in the future.**

### Expectations:

To succeed in this class you will need to:

- Attend class regularly and participate through thoughtful questions and reviews;
- Prepare and practice your presentation;
- Seek out help when you have trouble.

**Special accommodations:**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact their lecturer and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES, [disability.illinois.edu](http://disability.illinois.edu)) as soon as possible, and no later than Feb. 14.

**Academic Integrity, Harassment, and Discrimination:** You are bound by the University Honor Code in this course. Any violation of the Honor Code will result in disciplinary action. In addition, harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Please report any concerns immediately to your professor.

**Schedule for Presentations**

TBD