

The final exam will be about the following paper (posted on Canvas): "Iridium Dihydroxybipyridine complexes are Effective Catalysts for Hydrodeoxygenation of Vanillyl Alcohol in Water" by the Papish group.
Organometallics, **2023**, *42*, 2806-2812. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.organomet.3c00273>

A set of discussion questions will be posted on Canvas after the last class period. Use those questions to guide your thinking as you read the paper. We will not necessarily discuss all the questions in my office, and I will not collect your written work, but you may refer to any notes you take on the paper as we discuss it.

Remember that in this class we have considered orbital interactions for bonding, characterization by a number of methods, electron counting, and the "four" reactions of organometallic chemistry. You can certainly be expected to address a fraction of these topics as part of the oral exam.

Sign up for a 30 minute block for the week of December 11.

During the meeting, you will start by presenting the basics of the paper to me (an oral executive summary) in no more than 5 minutes. You may write on the whiteboard for this part if you would like. For the remaining time, I will ask you probing questions about the paper that start with the discussion questions but may lead in a direction that takes us away from the "official" questions. My goal is to follow our mutual interest during the discussion, and not to trick you or try to fool you. I want you to explain what you know. If you don't know something, it is better to admit it and either I will assist you, or we will abandon that line of reasoning, depending on where we are in the timing.

Students are almost universally fearful of this oral exam, but most report to me later that they found it valuable and helpful practice for future oral examinations. That is my primary goal for doing the exam in this way.