

ENV 4417: WATER QUALITY & TREATMENT
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of South Florida

Semester Project
Stage 7

Prof J A Cunningham
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The next stage of the group project is to deliver an *oral presentation* about your treatment plant.

- Oral presentations will be delivered in class on December 1 and December 3. We previously decided in class which groups will present on December 1 and which groups will present on December 3.
- The oral presentation will count for 10% of your project grade.
- Try to plan for a 15-minute oral presentation, with an additional 5 minutes for questions-and-answers from the audience. Your presentation does not have to be exactly 15 minutes, but that is the target. If you start approaching the 20-minute mark, I might have to cut you off, and that would probably have an adverse impact on your grade. Conversely, if your presentation is much shorter than 15 minutes, it might indicate that you have not included a lot of details. Therefore I recommend practicing your presentation beforehand to try to get it close to 15 minutes.
- What content should you include in your presentation? You can decide, but I think the following would comprise a very effective presentation:
 - a general introduction to your treatment plant (where is it located, when was it built, how many people does it serve, how much water or wastewater does it treat per day, etc.),
 - a consideration of the source water quality and/or the requirements for the final water quality produced by the plant,
 - a description of the overall treatment train employed by the treatment plant,
 - a description of any “unique” or special processes employed by the plant,
 - a description of what specific conditions or requirements have led the plant to employ a specific process or set of processes, and
 - an analysis of how the treatment train employed enables the plant to meet its treatment objectives.

The question is whether you can present all that effectively in 15 minutes. I think it is possible if you practice, but I could be wrong. If you can not include all those elements in a clear and intelligible 15-minute presentation, you can decide where you want to cut. It is better to cut something out than to try cramming everything in (and thereby sacrificing clarity).

- You probably want to prepare a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation to show to the class. If you would rather just talk, or write on the board, that is OK, but I think your presentation will likely be a lot more effective if you use PowerPoint or something similar.

- If you have a PowerPoint file or other presentation file, you can bring it to class on a USB drive, and/or e-mail it to me ahead of time, and/or upload it to Canvas. I assume that the classroom computer can read a USB drive, though I have not actually checked it! Most classroom computers are able to read USB devices, and have PowerPoint installed, so I do not expect any technical difficulties if you bring your PowerPoint presentation on a USB device. (...famous last words...?)
- Your group can decide if a single group member will deliver the entire presentation, or if multiple group members will present different parts. This will not affect anybody's grade. The entire group will get the same grade on the presentation, regardless of who presents it in class.
- I have not prepared a rubric for how I will assign a grade to your group. The grading will therefore be somewhat subjective. However, I will be looking to see how well your presentation answers the following:
 - What *processes* does your treatment plant employ?
 - How do those processes allow the plant to meet their *treatment objectives*?
 - How does the selection and operation of those processes depend upon the *quality or attributes of the influent water* and upon the *required quality of the final product*? (e.g., why did your plant select those particular processes, not some other processes?)
- In addition to the content items listed above, your grade will also be affected by style elements, such as the clarity of your presentation, the quality of your visuals, whether your slides contain grammar or spelling errors, etc. I am likely to weight the content more heavily than the style, but if the style has severe flaws, it generally undermines the delivery of the content, and thereby drags down the entire grade. Of course the best presentation is one that contains both good content and good delivery.

If you have questions, please ask.