

CHEMISTRY 154

Winter 2008

Term Paper

The goal is to trace the evolution of an older finding of organotransition metal chemistry into more contemporary work. Your report will be a study of a "classic" paper in organotransition metal chemistry (it may be one we have discussed or mentioned in class, or one you have found on your own) that is at least 20 years old, along with two or three papers that are no more than 5 years old, and are in some way "descended" from the parent paper. "Descent" could mean any of the following: increasing mechanistic understanding (and/or correcting a misunderstanding) of an older reaction; broadening the scope of a limited class of compound or reaction; demonstrating the applicability of a fundamental discovery to a practical problem such as synthetic methodology or catalysis, etc.

Your report should briefly summarize the content and significance of the original paper, and then discuss (at greater length) the later ones, showing how they grew out of the earlier one, what is the current state of understanding of the topic, and any remaining open questions and implications for further work.

The Citation Index search function in Web of Knowledge should be a very helpful tool for selecting the publications for your study. You are welcome — even encouraged — to consult with the instructor and/or TA on the selection.

Your report should be a maximum of 5 pages double-spaced, including figures and references, and is due by the last day of class (Tuesday, March 11).