

Course Documents Syllabus

CHM 135 Inorganic and Environmental Chemistry Lecture

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Rose

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Required Materials:

textbook: General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry, 2nd ed. by Karen Timberlake

companion online program: www.MasteringChemistry.com with purchased student access code (for graded homework problems)

scantrons Form 882-E, one for each test

basic scientific calculator

valid email address, access to BlackBoard, computer availability for online program

Course Description: This is a beginning level study of chemistry designed for students whose career focus is not directed toward the sciences. A study of general chemistry concepts will be used as a basis for exploring the application of those principles to environmental, agricultural, historical, social, and health-related issues. It is expected that college students have an adequate proficiency in high school level English and math, including basic algebra. Class sessions will involve lectures, projected visuals, demonstrations, quizzes, interactive assignments, and problem solving.

Grades: Test 1 ----- 100 pts

Test 2 ----- 100 pts The lowest of these four test grades will be dropped for a total of 300 pts.

Test 3 ----- 100 pts

(Final Exam) Test 4 ----- 100 pts

300 pts ----- Total from tests

100 pts ----- Online graded homework problems (percentage correct)

+ 100 pts ----- Daily quizzes, class assignments (percentage correct)

500 pts ----- Total for semester; used to determine final course grade by the following scale:

450 -- 500 pts ----- A

400 -- 449 pts ----- B

350 -- 399 pts ----- C

300 -- 349 pts ----- D

0 -- 299 pts ----- F

tests: There are three tests through the semester, each worth 100 points. Each test covers specific chapters in is cumulative in the sense that the material builds on previous concepts. The student is responsible for bringing a scantron 882-E, a #2 pencil, eraser, and approved calculator. Sharing of calculators or using cell phones during tests will not be allowed. The lowest test grade will be dropped. A missed test (for any reason) cannot be made up --- that test grade

will be the dropped one.

final exam: The final exam is comprehensive (covers chapters 1-10). If it is the lowest test grade, then it may be the dropped grade. In any case, taking the final exam can only help your grade, not hurt it. If a student is satisfied with their grade as calculated from the three test grades plus quiz and homework grades, they may choose to not take the final exam. For students not satisfied with their grade, the final exam is an opportunity to improve it.

quizzes: These will be given daily at any time during the class session and will cover material from assigned homework and lecture discussion. They are usually worth from 2-8 points each and will not be returned to the student. Grades will be posted on BlackBoard. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. At the end of the semester, enough points will be added to compete for about one week of absences. The quiz and daily grade cannot be dropped. Since the quiz grade is, at least in part, for class attendance and participation, students who miss more than 20% of a class session may lose all or part of their points for that day. Students who miss a quiz because of tardiness, but are present for almost all of the class may claim point for attendance for a maximum of two tardies. It is the student's responsibility to submit a quiz paper with their name to me at the end of class.

homework: Problems are assigned and graded through the online program, Mastering Chemistry. Due dates are posted on the program with credit given as described. Total points will be awarded based on percentage correct, and this grade dropped.

extra credit: Extra credit points will occasionally be offered through the semester. More information will be given as we get into the semester.

Absences: Attendance will be recorded for each class session. To assist in this and in getting to know you, a seating chart will be made indicating your assigned seat for the semester. Since this course is designed for non-science majors, the class experience is directed toward explanation and visual demonstration of concepts, discussion of real world applications, an interactive solving of problems. Regular attendance is the only way to benefit from this. Likewise, credit is weighted toward attendance, paying attention in class, and keeping up with the homework. Students with many absences generally perform poorly in this course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes, announcements, and assignments from any class session. I realize that a well-rounded student has important parts of life outside of school that may sometimes result in time conflicts. However, the student should also expect to assume the consequences of that trade-off in terms of time, and classroom experience.

There are many good excuses for being absent, including family death, surgery, speeding tickets, serious illness, having a baby, bad weather, etc. It is humanly impossible for a teacher to debate over the relative merits and excuses and determine a course of action that is completely fair to everyone. In an attempt to be both fair and compassionate, my current policy allows for dropping a test grade and adding points to the quiz grade. This combines an element of benefiting those really deserving or needing it) with an element of penalty (to

discourage abuse). Any exceptions to a policy make for those to whom exceptions were denied, and put me back in the position of having to decide relative merits. I will assume that a student has a good excuse for being absent---no written or official excuses are needed. I will sympathize with you and your circumstances, but do not expect any exceptions to the above policy. Each student in my class will be given the same consideration as every other student. Tardiness: If you are unavoidably late to class, close the door behind you and take your seat with minimal disturbance. Frequent tardiness shows a lack of courtesy toward your classmates and instructor who have made the effort to be on time. Disruptive behavior may result in points docked from the final grade. When tardy, it is the student's responsibility at the end of the class period to ensure that they have not been marked absent.

Classroom conduct: Students are expected to treat other students and faculty with respect, participate in class when capable or by volunteering, and maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experience. The use of cell phones, MP3 players or similar electronic devices is not allowed. Lectures may be recorded provided the process does not disturb the class. Any unruly behavior, inappropriate talking, noisiness, and lack of attention are considered disrespectful, and the student will be asked to leave the classroom. Any disruptive behavior may result in points docked from the final grade.

Communication: Announcements, changes, grades, assignments, etc. will be made during regular class time, through emails and through postings on Black Board and Mastering Chemistry. It is the student's responsibility to check these sources and get information missed due to absences. Also, all students need to make sure that their SAM email is functional. Due to constraints and class size, questions during class must sometimes be limited. However, I am quite willing to help any student during office hours or by appointment made through email. I make every attempt to respond promptly to student emails or phone calls.

University Policy: All university policies and procedures will be followed. More information can be found at www.shsu.edu. links to more specific policy descriptions.