



## Course Information

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### Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Rose

Office: Room 114 CFS Building

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#### Required Materials:

textbook: General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry, 2nd ed. by Karen Timberlake, Chapters 1-10

scantrons Form 882-E, one for each test

basic scientific calculator (TI 30Xa series)

valid email address, access to BlackBoard

**Course Description and Objectives:** 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 will have an adequate proficiency in high school level English and math, including basic algebra. Class sessions will involve lectures, projected visuals, demonstrations, quizzes, assignments, and problem solving. By gaining factual chemistry knowledge and learning the fundamental principles involved, students will improve their scientific thinking, problem solving, and decision making capabilities. As they develop skills and competency in this area, they will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of the scientific viewpoint.

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	
	Comprehensive Final Exam	4 -----	<u>100 pts</u>	
			300 pts	----- Total from tests
			+ <u>200 pts</u>	----- Daily quizzes, class assignments (from 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 the is cumulative in the sense that the material builds on previous concepts. The student is responsible for bringing a scant 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 one. If a student misses more than one test and has official excuses for those absences, then the first missed test will be dropped grade, and the final exam grade will substitute for the others. I do not give any make-ups or early exams.

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 assignment grades, they may choose to not take the final exam. If 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, lecture, and 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 compensate 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 the class period.

Extra Credit: Extra credit points will occasionally be offered through the semester. More information will be given as needed.

Homework: Material from the text will be assigned to understand or memorize. Also, problems at the end of each section at the end of the chapters will be assigned to work (problems are numbered as ch#.prob#). Odd numbered problems have answers given at the end of each chapter. This is valuable feedback about your understanding of the material if you check AFTER you have worked the problems. I do not collect homework papers---similar problems will appear on quizzes/test give you credit for your efforts. At any point in the semester, you are responsible only for the text and problems dealing with material we have covered in lecture. It is each student's responsibility to check BlackBoard for these assignments.

Graded Assignments: There may be occasional research, problem solving or writing assignments given. These will be graded on the quiz and assignment grade.

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, and interactive solving of problems. Regular attendance is the only way to benefit from this. Likewise, credit is weighted toward attendance, paying attention in class, participation in class discussion and activities, 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 missed class session. I realize that a well-rounded student has important things to do 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, energy, 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 of all excuses and determine a course of action that is complete to everyone. In an attempt to be both fair and compassionate, my current policy builds in a "safety net" with the dropped grade and the added quiz points. This combines an element of benefit (for those really deserving or needing it) with an element of penalty (to discourage abuse). Any exceptions to a policy make it unfair for those to whom exceptions were denied, and I will assume that a student has a good excuse for being absent unless you miss more than one test. I will sympathize with you over 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 called on 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. Attributing 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 email, and through postings on BlackBoard. It is the student's responsibility to check these sources and to get information missed due to absences. Also, all students need to make sure that their SAM email is functional. Due to time constraints and class 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](http://www.shsu.edu) links to more specific policy descriptions.

Test Schedule (subject to change):

Test One-----Tuesday, Feb 19th

Test Two-----Tuesday, Apr 1st

Test Three-----Tuesday, Apr 29th

Final Exam-----Tuesday, May 13th at 11:00

**Office Hours (tentative):** Mon 11-12 and 1-5, Tues 11:30-12:30 and 3-4, Wed 9-10 and 11-12, Thurs and Fri by appt. Please note that I may sometimes have an appointment with another student or be out of the office grading exams or in a meeting. If you want to be sure to see me, let me know ahead of time. I am also available to meet with you at other times by appointment.