

# Chemistry: Introduction and Expectations

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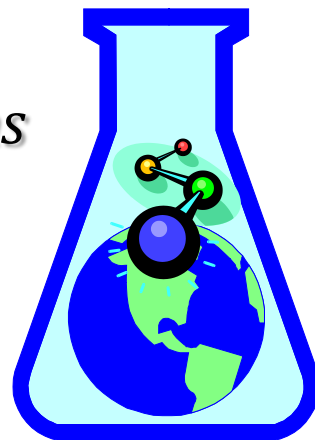
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## Textbooks:

**AP Chemistry:** Chemistry & Chemical Reactivity 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Kotz, Treichel and Weaver; Thomson, 2006

**Hon. Chemistry:** Chemistry: Principles and Reactions Updated 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Masterton & Hurley; Brooks/Cole, 2006

**Chemistry:** Introductory Chemistry: Concepts and Critical Thinking 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Corwin; Prentice Hall, 2011

## Introduction:

Welcome to chemistry. My hope is that this class will present you with a greater appreciation and understanding of the chemistry that takes place all around you. Every aspect of the universe involves the application of chemistry in one way or another. By its definition, chemistry is the systematic approach to understanding matter, its composition, behavior and changes. This definition covers everything from the unseen atoms that make up your DNA to the behavior of the inside of the Sun. Since ancient times, people have pondered questions concerning the composition of matter and how it could be manipulated to better suit the needs of society. The major epochs of civilization (the Bronze Age, etc.) were designated by the chemical technologies that had been developed at the time.

Many questions about chemistry have been answered; many more are left waiting to be answered. Bear in mind that the future of medical technology; cleaner, more efficient forms of energy; the production of greater quantities of food to feed the world; the power of computers and a myriad of other things will be a direct result of our ability to understand and manipulate the composition and behavior of matter. The nature of everything around you, both seen and unseen are based on what you will learn in this course. The technological decisions we make as a global society have a profound influence on the future of life on Earth. Therefore, it is important and worthwhile to study and understand the fundamental concepts of chemistry.

## Expectations:

In addition to obvious behavioral expectations, including those outlined in the student handbook, students should:

1. be *in their assigned seats* without excessive talking when the bell rings to begin class.
2. listen quietly to the announcements.
3. bring books, notebook, notes, pencil, pen and calculator to class daily.
4. respect each other's right to a positive learning environment.
5. raise their hand when asking questions and not talk out of turn.
6. take care of trash and recycling by using the proper containers.
7. use proper procedures in the lab area (lab aprons, goggles, no eating in the lab, etc.).
8. try to maintain a positive classroom attitude.
9. not bring food or drink to class. Water bottles will be allowed (in the lecture area) as long as they do not become a distraction or litter problem.
10. stay in their assigned seat until excused from class. *No door crowding!*
11. see me outside of class regarding progress reports, grades or other non-urgent issues.
12. have all cell phones, pagers and other transmission devices turned off and put away.
13. not change the status of the room (including window blinds and opening/closing windows) without consent of instructor.

- Students in violation may receive JUG, be required to clean the class/lab areas or perform other duties in accordance with the policies of the school.

- Students should plan trips to the restroom on their own time. Exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis.

## Classroom Information:

- Students with excused absences will have an amount of time commensurate with the period of time missed to make up their work. **You are responsible for making up work in a timely manner.** You should find a classmate who can be your source of information during the time that you are gone. Don't rely on me to remember what you have or haven't done. "Discoveries" of late work long after the due date will not be accepted. Also, ignorance about an assignment will not be an acceptable excuse. Generally, unexcused work up to one week late is 50% off. After one week, the assignment counts as a zero.
- Absenteeism on multiple exam days *may* adversely affect your grade.
- In general, extra-credit is rarely offered and if available cannot be used as a substitute for course content or to change letter grades.
- Assignments should always be neat enough for *me* to read and grade and include an MLA heading. You must always show work to receive credit for computational problems. In addition, in the case of an absence, **under the heading you must include a note regarding the circumstances of your absence even if you have talked to me beforehand.** Failure to include this note will result in the assignment being treated as late.
- Students should be aware that there is after-school help available through the science department. There is also a science web page at your disposal that provides helpful information regarding the course work in this class. Grading will be based on the total number of points earned throughout the semester and is cumulative. Final exams are worth 20% of your overall semester grade. Grades are based on the scale outlined in the student handbook. Note: Scores are rounded to the nearest whole number. Please be aware that semester grades will NOT be adjusted.
- Students will be explicitly instructed as to those assignments that may be completed cooperatively. As assignments are intended to be a learning tool, no student should ever directly copy another student's assignment. Students are expected to exercise integrity in their work.

## Assignments may consist of the following types:

Homework	Consists of book work completed outside of class, in-class practice problems/worksheets and homework/lecture quizzes. <i>Work must be shown to receive credit.</i>
Quizzes	Related to current reading and information from lecture. Not necessarily announced. Some quizzes may be over past concepts that students were expected to memorize.
Exams	Chapter/section concluding exams. Tests will be announced in advance.
Classwork	Activities related to concept development which may utilize computer tutorials, cooperative learning activities and other related projects.
Lab Activities*	Experiments and activities performed in the lab that are related to course content.
Projects/Reports	Projects and/or other research activities to be done outside of class, including formal laboratory reports.

\*The following guidelines will apply to absences on lab days (except for formal labs):

1<sup>st</sup> excused absence – No make-up is required and the lab will not count against you.

2<sup>nd</sup> excused absence – A make-up lab will be required (usually at the end of the semester) which may differ from the one that was missed.

3<sup>rd</sup> absence – The lab may count as a zero (depending upon circumstances).

Given the frequency of lab activities, the chance of a student missing three laboratory activities is extremely unlikely.

Most importantly, remember that your actions are a reflection of you. Take pride in what you do and always do the best job possible. It may be the few points here or there that make the difference in your grade at the end of the semester.