

General Chemistry I 2011-2012

Contact Information:

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(Please note that I do not have a phone in my room and email will receive the quickest response, typically within a few hours.)

Course Description

General Chemistry is designed to teach the principles and applications of chemistry. Chemistry is the study of matter and its changes. Therefore, to study chemistry is to study all that is central to our lives. Many concepts are abstract in nature – atomic structure, chemical bonding, reaction mechanisms – and many involve an analytical or mathematical approach for understanding. This course will involve a number of online aspects that will allow students and parents to remain knowledgeable about content and assignments. Engrade will be used to track student grades, and will also have class and project assignments as well as notes loaded as attachments that can be accessed at any time. The course blog will be updated regularly with additional information, links to practice websites, extra credit opportunities, and general information. And finally, all homework will be done online this year through a University of Indiana system.

Materials

The following materials will need to be obtained by Monday August 29th:

- **bound** composition book, NO SPIRAL(200 pages if possible, otherwise might need 2 for whole course)
- blue or black pen
- 1 roll of tape and 1 glue stick to add to the class supply
- Spot in a 3 ring binder or a secure folder for storing articles and reading for the course

Text: We will not actually be using a textbook in class this year. The available text is Myers, Thomas. Chemistry. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2004, and is available for issue if parents want their child to have one for reference. All homework assignments will be done through an online system, and current articles and other readings will be used as our source material instead. On occasion we will access an online textbook. The Holt textbook from DCPS is also available online for student use at home.

Expectations and Procedures

This is going to be a very different class this year. We have the opportunity to participate in a study with the University of Indiana that allows us to have access to their 7500 question online database for use as homework. To go along with this opportunity, we are going to try to really bring this course into the 21st century with our usage of technology. Students will HAVE to have internet access at least once during the week. This doesn't mean you have to go buy them a new computer and call Comcast to get high-speed internet. We have computers here, I stay late at school, and DC Public Libraries have computer access as well. This is going to be an evolving classroom model that we hope to implement in the science department and I will work with students and families as needed to make adjustments.

All notes, free writing, lab notes and data, constructed responses, classwork, and the rare homework assignments will be kept in the bound composition book. The composition book will normally be

collected every 2 weeks and given a notebook grade, as well as having the included assignments graded. Consider this YOUR LIFE in Chemistry and DO NOT LOSE IT!

Homework will be assigned as problem sets on a weekly basis through the University of Indiana's CALM online system. Depending on the subject matter, 10-20 questions will normally be assigned. One grade will be assigned for each problem set and entered on engrade. I will supply more information on CALM in the coming weeks.

Class Participation will be assessed on a daily basis and may include completing daily warm-ups on the board, practice problems, leading group activities, answering questions, asking questions, helping your fellow students, and other such activities.

There will typically be a quiz every other week pertaining to the material covered throughout the previous 2 weeks. It is critical that students review notes and work performed for maximal success.

There will be an exam every Advisory and a comprehensive Final Exam in June. It is critical that students review notes and work performed throughout the Advisory for maximal success.

Make-up quizzes and tests will be given to students with excused absences only. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for any work missed. Arrangements to take a missed quiz or test must be made the day the student returns to school or before leaving on a school approved absence, including absences to participate in performances. Students are responsible for all assignments given in class even when absent, and for scheduling make-up work. Check with Ms. Baskin for assignments. Everything in class goes on engrade so you should be able to keep up.

After one week from the due date, late assignments can only receive a maximum of 65% or a D. If you are absent when a writing assignment is due, please email your work to me so it will not be considered late.

Cheating is forbidden. This includes blatant copying or "borrowing" of homework assignments, and copying online material for papers and projects. All parties involved in cheating will be given a zero on the assignment.

Students are expected to:

- 1. be considerate and thoughtful of others feelings;**
- 2. respect one another;**
- 3. demonstrate trustworthy behavior;**
- 4. follow "ask 3 before me"**
- 5. monitor their own speaking level for appropriateness**
- 6. come to class on time**

in order to achieve a positive, active working academic environment. In achieving the above expectations, the following criteria must be met:

1. DO NOT TOUCH LAB CHEMICALS AND/OR EQUIPMENT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY MS. BASKIN
2. BE KIND and hold respect and appreciation for your fellow classmates and teachers (i.e. do not make fun of other people, no fighting, no cursing, do not interrupt our learning environment, follow directions, etc.)
3. COME TO CLASS PREPARED for learning (bring your pens/pencils, periodic table, notebook, homework, etc. DAILY and COME ON TIME).

Ramifications/consequences for not meeting expectations:

If the above expectations are breached, the student may expect:

One on One conferences

Writing Letters of Respect
After /Before school detention – applies for tardies and behavior
Phone calls/emails to parents
Parent conferences
Disciplinary referrals

Special note: If you are having difficulty with this course, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL TOTALLY LOST!!! I hold office hours Mondays and Wednesdays after school, but am here most days.

Grading Policy

Per Advisory:	Grading scale:
Grading Criteria:	A = 100-93
Participation- 15%	A- = 92-90
Classwork- 17.5%	B+ = 89-87
Homework- 17.5%	B = 86-83
Tests and Quizzes- 25%	B- = 82-80
Projects/Labs- 25%	C+ = 79-77
	C = 76-73
	C- = 72-70
Course Grade = Avg of 4 Adv Marks & Final Exam	D+ = 69-67
	D = 66-64
	F = 63-0

Attendance and Punctuality: Attendance and punctuality are required for every class for every student. If students are absent or late without a valid excuse and do not complete a compensatory make up time, it will lower their grades. As stated in the Handbook, 5 unexcused absences will result in an F for that Advisory of the course (3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence).

Course Content

The material to be covered each advisory is given below.

1 st Adv	Atomic structure & Theory, Nuclear Chemistry
2 nd Adv	Properties of Matter, Periodic Table
3 rd Adv	Chemical Names & Formulas, Chemical Bonding
4 th Adv	Chemical Reactions & Equations, Stoichiometry

I have read and understand the above objectives, methods, procedures, expectations, policies, obligations, evaluation criteria, and course content

Student Signature

Printed Full Name

Date

Student email _____ Student phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Full Name

Date

Parent email _____ Parent phone # _____