



Chemistry I Syllabus

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ILL-B (2023), M.A.T (2020), B.S. Chemistry (2017)

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Room # S9

Course Description

Chemistry I is a laboratory science course where students investigate the composition of matter and the physical and chemical changes it undergoes. Students use science process skills to study the fundamental structure of atoms, the way atoms combine to form compounds, interactions between matter and energy, forces and interactions, and waves. Problem-solving, critical thinking, applied laboratory techniques, and applied learning are all integral aspects of the course. This course contains a significant laboratory and writing component in order to ensure college and/or workforce readiness. This course is split into two semesters.

Teacher's Introduction

Chemistry is often perceived as a difficult course that only “smart” people can understand. This is far from true. Have you ever looked at some phenomena and wondered how it works? More than likely the explanation is rooted in a fundamental concept you will learn in this course. My goal for you is to leave this class with not only a sound understanding of the concepts, but also with a deeper appreciation for the sciences and confidence.

Course Outline

Instruction: Each class period will begin with a fast written assignment or problem that should be recorded on a special “great start log.” During lecture, students are encouraged to ask questions, take notes, and interact. Note templates will be provided weekly and must be kept in order in your notebook for a test grade (see notebook section). Lab demonstrations will often be utilized, and some days will be designated lab days. Lecture will consist of explanation of concepts with heavy emphasis on worked example problems and student interaction. Each class ends with a big finish to assess learning and address any misconceptions from the day.

Great starts & big finishes may be randomly evaluated for a completion grade.

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Weekly Homework & Pop Question:

A) Students will be assigned a set of problems (no more than 10-15) reviewing the week's material each Monday. They will be due the following Monday without exception. All work must be shown and explained if the question requires it (aka., math problem).

B) To ensure each student gives the homework their best, we will have a "homework check test" each Monday at the beginning of class. Random homework questions will be selected, and students will thoroughly answer them on a Google Form document for a homework grade.

C) A random, weekly "pop question" on Google Classroom. This ensures you are checking your Google Classroom on a regular basis for videos and other helpful supplemental documents.

There is one homework grade per unit (unit pop questions & homework check averaged).

Remember, YOU are responsible for obtaining assignments on days missed. Check Google Classroom. DO NOT come the next day and ask, "did I miss anything?" Homework cannot be made up.

Friday Quizzes: Friday quizzes will be given often. Each quiz will cover content from Monday-Thursday. Also, often in chemistry there are certain values, tables, or trends that students must know to understand specific concepts. This is my way of ensuring students are actively learning such information and checking their Google Classroom to review. These allow students to constantly review information before a major exam. ***Also, be aware that I may give a pop quiz if most of the class appears to not be paying attention.***

Each Friday from January – March 2024 will be dedicated to the Science ACT.

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Notebook: Students are required to keep a notebook using these guidelines:

A) A three-ring binder that contains class notes and great start logs written in the provided templates. The binder must be kept in order (i.e., unit 2 cannot be mixed up with unit 1 or 3) and all pages must be hole punched. **No spiral-bound notebooks may be used!**

B) *No notes* may be stuffed in any side pocket relating to my class and must be in order.

C) This will be thoroughly evaluated once a semester and will be counted as a test grade.

Exams: Students will be tested after covering 1-2 units. Exams are for students to show me they have adequately studied and learned the material. Exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice and free-response questions. You may only use your filled out note templates and personal periodic table. If you miss an exam day, it is your responsibility to schedule a time to take it. **Retakes are not permitted.**

Google Classroom: Google Classroom will be utilized regularly. It is important you get your classroom code and sign into your Google Classroom! I use this resource to post announcements, class notes, assignments, and instructional videos often. ***Get the app on your phone, check it often, and do not disable notifications! These are requirements.*** Always check the “classwork” tab. Students normally stop checking their notifications after a while. I will take random weekly Google Classroom participation grades (“Pop Questions”) to ensure this no longer happens. Just like college, it is paramount you check your online dashboard daily. These will be averaged with your unit homework grades.

Extra Credit

Students may earn ten (10) points on an exam by reading a supplied science book and writing a 2-page summary. Summaries must be thorough and well thought out in order to earn the points. A plagiarism checker will be used to determine the authenticity of your work.

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Grading Policy

The composition of your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams/Notebook: 30%

Weekly Homework Check & Pop Question: 30%

Friday Quizzes: 30%

In-Class/Labs: 10%*

A: 93 - 100% B: 85 - 92 % C: 75 - 84% D: 70 - 74% F: Below 70%

- **Late homework will result in a 10-point drop per day/Zero by Friday**
- **Labs cannot be made up; if missed, expect an alternative assignment**
- ***In order to participate in labs, you must fill out the lab safety agreement**

Needed Classroom Supplies – Have by 2nd Week of Class!

- Minimum two-inch three ring binder with loose leaf college-ruled paper (**no spiral bound notebooks!**)
- Black or blue pens
- Pencils
- Highlighter

Classroom Rules & Procedures

Rules

1. Class begins the moment you walk in the door.
2. Do not start packing up or leaving your seat until the bell rings.
3. **No cell phones may be out** at any time for any reason.
4. No eating or drinking (unless bottled water) in the classroom. This is a safety issue in the lab.
5. *Do what is right!*

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Procedures

1. I will close the door when the bell rings - being tardy requires an admit slip
2. Transitions between desks and lab stations must be completed in one minute
3. All safety equipment must be put on during the one-minute transition period on lab days
4. While in groups each member must fulfill their given role and stay in the group---*no roaming*

Consequences

1st offense: Written or verbal warning / meeting after class

2nd offense: Call / Text to Parents / Points off

3rd offense: Office referral

Students refusing to work will also be sent to the office. If they are in a sport, I will contact their coach.

Cheating

Immediate zero (0) on assignment without possibility to make-up and parental contact

Cell Phone & Air Pod Policy

Students are **not** to have their cell phones or other devices out for any reason, anytime. **Each time an offence occurs it will be collected and taken to the office without exception. Also, do NOT wear your Air Pods in my room!**

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Absent Policy

If you miss school for any reason (and not sick or experiencing a family emergency), it is your responsibility to check the “classwork” tab on Google Classroom and still complete all assignments. Contact me for paper copies if you do not have quality home internet. If you return and failed to work, you will receive zeros for each assignment until you come to make them up. Instructional videos and class notes are posted to ensure adequate instruction is available.

Miscellaneous

- **Dress code must be followed according to the CCHS handbook. I am known to check for this!**
- Attendance to each class is vital (missing class = failing)
- Students or parents may request a take-home textbook

Parents – please do not unsubscribe from Remind! This is how I will contact you.

Remember..... “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is tied to everything else in the universe.” John Muir (1838-1914)