

General Chemistry Disclosure Document 2013 – 2014

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Course Description

The science of chemistry deals with the composition and properties of substances and with the reactions by which substances are produced from or converted into other substances. Due to the nature of the topic, chemistry courses are very rigorous. Chemistry students will have the opportunity to learn about behavior of matter, atomic structure, chemical and physical properties, chemical bonding, the structure of the periodic table, chemical equations and reactions, solutions, and the basic structure of organic compounds. In addition to the above areas of study the students will be exposed to and participate in laboratory investigations designed to help students make connections between theory and application.

Course Goals and Objectives

Utah has developed a core curriculum which outlines specific standards for student learning. The core curriculum includes ideas, concepts, and skills which provide a foundation on which subsequent learning may be built. The state chemistry core can be accessed on the Utah State Office of Education's website at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/core>.

Prerequisite

Algebra I completed with a C or better

Textbook

Modern Chemistry published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston (ISBN: 0-03-051122-4)

Fees/Supplies

\$15.00 lab fee (*paid at registration*)

Three-ring binder (1½ inch) with 5 tabs

Scientific calculator

Pens and pencils, paper, ruler

Format and Procedures

Students will participate in lectures, labs, and other hands-on activities that demonstrate chemistry concepts. Part of student participation will include binder checks. Homework will generally be assigned on a daily basis, and a short daily quiz will follow each homework assignment. Larger quizzes and tests will be given periodically with each chapter.

Course Requirements (Attendance, Assignments, Tardies, Discipline, etc.)

- Students should attend school regularly and arrive on time. The school tardy and absence policy will be followed.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn, with all necessary supplies and all assignments completed *before* class. Homework is due at the *beginning* of class unless other arrangements have been made.
- Students are expected to follow the school dress code.
- Students and parents should check grades regularly on PowerSchool. Please notify me if a discrepancy exists.
- NO electronic devices, electronic games, cell phones, or pagers are allowed to be used in my class. This includes using a cell phone for a calculator. Use the real thing.
 - Each violation results in a loss of 5 participation points. Chronic violation will result in parent contact.
- Safety Policy: Because of the inherent risk associated with labs in class, students MUST follow directions carefully, focus their attention on the task at hand, appropriately handle equipment, and be on their best behavior at all times. Students who fail to do so will be asked not to participate, jeopardizing their grade.
- Honesty Policy: Complete honesty is expected. Students should do their own work, except when working in cooperative groups where sharing information and ideas is appropriate. Students who “borrow” another person’s work, or who “lend” their own work in a dishonest or otherwise inappropriate manner, will receive a zero on the assignment/test in question.
- Enjoy the class and have a fun and challenging experience.

Grading Procedures

Chemistry is a full year course divided into four terms. The grade for each term is determined by the total percentage of the points the student has accumulated:

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------|
| A = 93% | B- = 80% | D+ = 67% |
| A- = 90% | C+ = 77% | D = 63% |
| B+ = 87% | C = 73% | D- = 60% |
| B = 83% | C- = 70% | F = 59% and below |

Students will be graded in the following areas:

1. Participation
 - o Binder Check – graded on test days (30 points each)
 - o Participation – prepared, active participation, cooperative, compliance with electronic devices policy (100 points total)
2. Homework
 - o Usually assigned daily as a worksheet (about 10-30 points each)
 - o Due at the beginning of class (students should come in for help *before* homework is due)
3. Labs
 - o Includes laboratory work and other hands-on activities (about 10-30 points each)
 - o Generally due the class period after the lab or activity is completed
4. Quizzes
 - o Homework quizzes – given after each homework assignment
 - Consist of 2 or 3 problems similar to homework (about 10 points each)
 - Open notes and open homework
 - o Memorization quizzes as needed – one retake allowed on each memorization quiz
5. Tests
 - o Given every one or two chapters (about 75-100 points each)
 - o Test corrections for 1/3 points, test corrections are due one week after tests are returned

A limited amount of extra credit is offered each term, including built in homework extra credit (10% of total homework points from the term)

Late Work and Makeup Work

1. If you have an excused absence you have the same number of extra days to turn in an assignment as the number of days you were absent. *You are responsible* for making sure I know your absence was excused. If I do not know your absence is excused, I will treat the assignment as late work.
2. All other work turned in past the due date will be treated as late work.
3. **All late work will receive 50% credit.** There are no exceptions, so do not ask for any.
4. **I will NOT accept any late work from the first half of the term after midterm.** There are no exceptions, so do not ask for any.
5. If you miss a chapter test due to an excused absence, you have one week beyond the test date to make up the test. After one week, tests will be treated as late work, and as such will be graded for 50% credit. (Please talk to me before this point for excused extended absences.)

Participation Points

1. Class participation is graded **twice per term** for 50 points each
2. You will **lose 5 points** every time I see one of the following:
 - Cell phone, iPod/earphones, sleeping, reading a book other than chemistry, disruptive behavior
3. Check Power School for comments regarding participation points. Each time I take away 5 points, I will include a comment in Power School with the date and reason for loss of points.

Tentative Course Schedule

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <i>First Term:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Elements▪ Measurements and calculations▪ Atoms▪ Electrons▪ Periodic trends | <i>Second Term:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nuclear chemistry▪ Bonding▪ Formulas and compounds▪ Equations and reactions | <i>Third Term:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conservation of mass▪ Conservation of energy▪ Reaction rates▪ Equilibrium | <i>Fourth Term:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solutions▪ Colligative properties▪ Acids and bases▪ Gases▪ Organic chemistry |
|---|--|---|--|

Tutoring and Assistance

I am available to help students or meet with parents **before school (7:15 – 7:40)** and during **second lunch (12:20-12:55)**. My consultation periods are **A5/6 and B5/6 (10:55-12:20)**. I am also usually around to help **after school, except on Tuesdays**. Other arrangements may be made in advance. *Please talk to me if you need help.* Chemistry is a subject that builds on previous knowledge, and the difficult material will not just “go away” if you ignore it. It is very important to not fall behind.

Communication with Students and Parents

- Students and parents should check my website for updated class information, notes, and assignments. This is especially important for students who are absent. *If you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you missed and to make it up* as soon as possible. My website is <http://olsonchemistry.weebly.com>, or it can also be found by following the “Academics” link on the Highland home page, then choosing “Curriculum Departments,” then “Science.”
- Students and parents are welcome to call, email, and meet with me in person, and I am also willing to set appointments in advance if necessary. (See contact information at the head of this disclosure document.)

**Disclosure Acknowledgement
General Chemistry**

You and your parent or guardian should read and sign this form and return it by Monday, August 26th, 2013 (B-day) or Tuesday, August 27th, 2013 (A-day). If you have questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact me.

We have carefully read and we understand the Chemistry disclosure. We will adhere to all class standards.

Date: _____

Student:

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian:

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Home Work