

Chemistry 2016-2017

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Course Overview:

In this course, we will study the interactions of atoms and molecules in the world around us. Topics may include matter, the atom, the periodic table and its trends, the mole, chemical naming, chemical reactions and bonding, balancing chemical equations, stoichiometry, gases, solutions, rates of reactions, chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, and thermodynamics.

The rational and inquiry-driven, worldview taught in this course is vastly more important to your intellectual and personal development than any particular course content. When possible, look to the big picture.

Course Outline:

Chemistry is often described as the study of matter-what it's composed of and how and why different materials interact with one another. In this course, we will begin by studying the structure of atoms and move into why different elements have their specific properties and then onto how those properties dictate the manner in which they react with other elements.

The units covered this year will be:

Nuclear Reactions

Electronic structure of the atom

Bonding

Reactions

Gases

Solutions, acids and bases

Thermochemistry

Equilibrium

Bioorganic Chemistry

Grades:

Scale:

90 -100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

0 - 59% = F

Your final grade each semester will be an accumulation of points earned from:

- Daily Check-ins
- Lab write-ups
- Quizzes
- Unit Tests
- Midterm and Final Exams

The aim of this class is for you to master the material. In an effort to achieve this goal, a step-system for grading will be used. In this system, if a student demonstrates mastery of a unit on a higher level assessment, lower scores on a previous assessment will be nullified. Quizzes are level 1, unit tests level 2, and midterm and final exams level 3. As an example, if a student scores a 60% on a quiz for specific topic and then scores an 85% on the unit test showing mastery of the specific topic, the previous quiz grade will be raised to 85%. Assignment and lab scores will not be altered.

Class expectations:

- Be kind and respectful to each other
- Ask questions! You should have questions, please do not be afraid to ask them.
- Use appropriate language in the classroom and in all assignments-this includes your blogs.
- Be honest and hold yourself to the highest level of integrity.
- Work hard in class and finish all homework on time.
- Always think about the material in the context of the “big picture,” do not lose this perspective in the details.
- Do not panic and have fun. Do not let an assessment get in the way of learning and appreciating the material.