

CHEMISTRY 1030 SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

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It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...

This famous first line from Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities" might be a good description of your life right now! If you just graduated from high school, then you have daydreamed about graduating and taking off for college for years. But, oh wait, that graduation thing (and Prom) didn't go down exactly as you and your friends (and your parents) had planned. And living in dorms? Well, let's just say that if you were worried about getting a roommate you couldn't get along with, that's not going to be a problem. Maybe you have been in college or been on the job for a while. You made this great plan to take chemistry in the fall of 2020 and you were going to go all out, acing that course that stumped you in high school. Now you are faced with a (ahem) "synchronous online course." Well, whatever the circumstances, just know that everyone on the ETSU staff knows these circumstances are much, much less than ideal. We all want to create courses and experiences for students that are as positive, productive, and, dare I say fun(?), as possible. Step 1 is to provide you with a syllabus that is informative and helpful throughout the course.

Course Description

This course, designed for the non-science major, presents an interdisciplinary approach to the basic principles of chemistry. The importance of chemistry in today's society, its relevance to many environmental questions, and other current issues involving chemistry will be emphasized. Three (3) hours of lecture and one (1) hour of lab/discussion per week.

The Big Picture

This course is designed for a non-science major and presents an interdisciplinary approach to chemistry. The importance of chemistry in today's world will be emphasized. The goal will be to cover the following chapters:

- Chapter 1 About Science
- Chapter 2 Particles of Matter
- Chapter 3 Elements of Chemistry
- Chapter 4 Subatomic Particles
- Chapter 5 The Atomic Nucleus
- Chapter 6 How Atoms Bond
- Chapter 7 How Molecule Mix
- Chapter 8 How Water Behaves
- Chapter 9 How Chemicals React
- Chapter 10 Acids and Bases in Our Environment
- Chapter 11 Oxidations and Reductions Charge the World

Synchronous Online Course

I will be using the shared meeting platform "Zoom" and the video suite "Panopto" to teach the course. The course is scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:40 pm. The time posted for this course is 1:40 to 3:40. However, a minimum of 1 hour per week is allowed for out-of-class lab work, so the class will end at 3:10. As a "synchronous" course, you are expected to join the meeting at 1:40 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and remain engaged in the meeting until 3:10. Meeting invitations will be sent to your ETSU email address no later that 8:00 am on Monday and Wednesday. You can click on the Zoom or Panopto link to join the waiting room or meeting. The expectation is that you attend the class in real-time or synchronously. Although every meeting (class) will be recorded and posted, I expect you to attend (join the meeting) every class period.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. A high school understanding of math and algebra is needed.

Text and Materials

The text is *MasteringChemistry* by John Suchocki 5th edition, ISBN 9780321807816. If you purchase it from the ETSU bookstore, it will include an access code for the online homework and electronic text. If you want a hardcopy of the book, see the option at the bookstore.

Labs are done with supplies you can buy at the grocery store. There is a list of the labs and the materials you will need in the Content Tab of D2L. The lab procedures and report sheets are also in the Content Tab. Labs will be done at home and the report sheet filled out and added to the Dropbox (Assessment Tab in D2L). There is a lab schedule is at the end of this syllabus.

You will also need a calculator for this class. It can be a simple and inexpensive device.

Exams and Homework

You will have 4 exams, 1 after every 2-3 chapters in the book. The exams will be found in the Assessment Tab. The exams will be given during class time on a Monday or a Wednesday. The exam will be accessible at 1:40 on that day and close at 3:10 on that day. The schedule of exams is below. Homework will also be due on the day of the exam covering those chapters. For example, Exam 1 covers Chapters 1,2 and 3 and is scheduled on Sept. 16, so the homework for Chapters 1, 2, and 3 will be due at 1:40 Sept. 16. A make-up exam will be given only if you can provide verifiable documentation of an illness or emergency. If you miss an exam without verifiable documentation of an illness or emergency, you will receive a score of 0 for that exam.

A student with a special need for accommodation in course activities should make arrangements with the instructor within the first 2 weeks of class.

Cheating

Cheating takes various forms, especially in an online course. Cheating on exams means you got help from someone or something to answer exam questions. It means you did not answer every question from your own knowledge and with help of a periodic table and/or formula sheet. Cheating on homework means you got someone else to do it for you. You can discuss questions and correct or incorrect answers with others (or email me), but academic integrity requires that you do the work and learn the concepts. Cheating on lab is much like cheating on homework. It means that someone other than you did the actual lab work. You may or may not have filled out the report sheet, but someone else (including a YouTube video) did the experiment. Cheating is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. As someone who has been teaching many, many years, I can usually recognize it when I see it. Per ETSU student handbook, academic misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action. Penalties for cheating range from an F on the assignment or exam all the way to expulsion from the university.

Grading

Each exam is worth 11% so the 4 exams comprise 44% of your grade. The final exam is given on the date set by the university for courses starting at 1:40 on MW (Monday Dec. 7, 2020 1:20 pm) and is worth 20% of your grade. Missing the final will result in failing the course. You must take the final and take in on Dec. 7, 2020. Homework is worth 16% of your grade. The lab experiments are worth 20% of your grade. See the table below for a summary.

Assessment	Weight	
Chapter Exams	44%	
Homework	16%	
Laboratory	20%	
Final Exam	20%	

Grading Scale

≥ 90 %	A
86% - 89.50%	A-
82% - 85.50%	B+
79% - 81.50%	В
76% - 78.50%	В-
71% - 75.50 %	C+
65% - 70.50%	C
60% - 64.50%	C-
56% - 59.50%	D+
50% - 55.50%	D
<50%	F

Exam and Homework Schedule*

Exam 1	Homework Ch. 1, 2, 3	Wed. Sept. 16
Exam 2	Homework Ch. 4, 5	Mon. Oct. 12
Exam 3	Homework Ch. 6, 7, 8	Mon. Nov. 16
Exam 4	Homework Ch. 9, 10, 11	Wed. Dec. 2
Final Exam	Comprehensive, Ch. 1-11	Mon. Dec. 7

* Dates subject to change with not less than 3 days' notice

Lab Schedule

Lab Number	Title	Due Date
1	Energy	Wed. Sept. 2
2	Density	Wed. Sept. 9
3	Rainbow	Wed. Sept. 16
4	Crystals	Wed. Sept. 23
5	Ice Cream	Wed. Sept. 30
6	Capillary Action	Wed. Oct. 7
7	pH with Red Cabbage	Wed. Oct. 14
8	Electrochemistry	Wed. Oct. 21
9	Eggs and Alcohol	Wed. Oct 28
10	Polymers	Wed. Nov. 4

A Final Word...

Students that have questions about mental health resources, whether for themselves, a friend, or a family member may find resources available on the ETSU Campus. There is the ETSU Counseling Center (423-439-3333 and 423-439-4841 press 2) and the ETSU Behavioral Health and Wellness Clinic (423-439-7777). The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day (1-800-273-TALK). Although there should never be a stigma attached to asking for or receiving mental health counseling, some people just think there is and are reluctant to ask for help. Given that we have been enduring a global pandemic for 6 months, I would be surprised if everyone has not, at some time or another, needed someone to talk to. If you or a friend need help, get it.