GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION FOR CHEM 321

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Office Hours: Tu, Th 8:30-9:00, 12:00-12:30 and by appointment

Course Website URL: www.csun.edu/~hcchm003/321/321.html

Course Description

CHEM 321 is the first-semester course of the year-long analytical chemistry sequence. It is a lecture course that must be taken with the co-requisite lab (CHEM 321L). The emphasis in CHEM 321 is on the chemical principles associated with the analytical techniques used in CHEM 321L. The topics emphasized in CHEM 321 include: experimental errors and statistics, solution chemistry, spectrophotometric methods and chromatography.

Class Structure

The lecture periods for this course will be used primarily as discussion sessions. Reading assignments will be posted on the course website in advance of each class meeting. You are responsible for printing and reviewing this material BEFORE coming to class. Generally the first half of a class period will involve a discussion that centers around questions about the assigned material that students have posed to the instructor. The remaining class time will involve graded problem solving in which students work in groups of 3-4 on questions provided by the instructor or take a short quiz. Your participation in the problem-solving work is a required and an important part of this course. **Students with two or more unexcused absences will get zero points (out of a maximum of 75 points) for the lecture work.**

Course Grading

Your grade in this 2-unit lecture class will be based on your performance on four exams and on the lecture period work, as noted below.

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent of Total Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥ 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥ 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Work</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
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<td><strong>Class Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 pts</strong></td>
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Each semester exam will test your mastery of material discussed in class since the previous exam. The tentative dates for these three exams, and the material covered by each, are noted on the lecture schedule. Please note that **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES.** If you miss an exam or quiz for a valid, documented reason, please contact the instructor as soon as possible, otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.
In order to develop the problem-solving skills that will be needed for success in this class, please consider the following.

♦ Be prepared to take an active part in classroom discussions, group work and in submitting questions about the reading assignments. Do a careful read of each posted reading assignment before it is discussed in class. This allows you to think about the material and identify areas that are not clear. Submit questions about anything that is not clear. Your questions form the basis for discussion in the subsequent class meeting.

♦ As motivation for staying current with your assignments, you will be permitted to substitute up to 25 points of credit toward your final exam score by sending legitimate questions about the weekly assignments to the instructor prior to discussing this material in class. The specific details of this option will be explained in class.

♦ Take careful notes in class to supplement the information in the posted reading assignment. This combined record will be your most important reference when preparing for exams and quizzes. Strive to make it as complete and organized as possible and this will become a key asset in your study.

♦ Look at all the worked examples and try all practice problems. Again, ask questions that you have about any items that are not clear.

♦ When you have finished a topic, test your skills by doing the homework and practice exam questions as if you were taking a test; that is, do not use notes or example solutions to assist you. If you can’t answer a question, ask your instructor or a knowledgeable classmate for assistance in setting up the solution. The exact answer is much less important than knowing how to map out the solution. When you are able to do this it demonstrates an understanding and an ability to tackle problems with slightly different slants on the same topic. For areas where you are having trouble with the homework, practice by doing other, related problems. It is really important to approach new problems and not just redo and memorize solutions to the assigned problems. You will always see new problems on a chemistry exam!

This approach takes time. You must be fully committed to this level of work in order to succeed in this class.

Homework Assignments

Each posted reading assignment is associated with a posted list of student Learning Objectives. These define your goals as you work through the assignment, and are important benchmarks toward mastering the material. You should not be satisfied until you have tried your best to achieve each objective listed for the assignment.

Each assignment generally includes worked Examples to illustrate important concepts and Check for Understanding questions where you are asked to demonstrate a basic understanding of each concept. The solutions for all Check for Understanding questions are posted.
For each posted topic you will find a number of Exercises. You are assigned all of these problems as homework. The answers to the homework problems are not to be turned in and do not contribute directly to your course grade. However, these problems serve as an important guide to your study of the various topics covered in this course. You are expected to be able to solve problems of this level and type in order to be successful in this class. The solutions to these problems are also posted. If you feel you need additional problems to practice applying your understanding, ask your instructor for references to supplementary material.

Drop Deadline: The last day to drop this course with instructor approval is September 13, 2013. Any request to drop this course after this deadline must satisfy University regulations (http://www.csun.edu/anr/soc/adjshed.html) that require "extraordinary circumstances for which there is no viable alternative".

Grade of Incomplete: An incomplete (I) is assigned when only a small portion (for example, the final exam) of the required course work remains, but cannot be finished for valid and documented reasons. The student then agrees to complete this portion of work within one calendar year, at which time the final course grade is assigned. If the work is not completed, the “I” grade becomes an “F”. Incompletes are not given so that a student may repeat the entire course with complete disregard of previous scores on completed course assignments.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty (http://catalog.csun.edu/policies_/academic-dishonesty/) is a very serious offense and will be dealt with according to the faculty policy described in the University Catalog (http://catalog.csun.edu/policies_/faculty-policy-on-academic-dishonesty/).