GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION FOR CHEM 100

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Office Hours: Tu, Th 8:30-9:00, 12:00-12:30 and by appointment
Moodle course: CHEM 100-15839-Miller-Fa13

Course Description

CHEM 100 is a preparatory chemistry lecture course that has an optional lab (CHEM 100L). The emphasis in CHEM 100 is on the development of the skills needed for success in subsequent chemistry courses. These include the ability to: read about science with comprehension, organize scientific information and solve problems, and perform basic mathematical calculations. Fundamental physics and chemistry principles such as how to apply the scientific method, details about the structure of matter, chemical reactions and chemical nomenclature, and how to do fundamental calculations involving scientific units are presented. A grade of “C” or better in CHEM 100 satisfies the prerequisite for CHEM 101.

Class Format

Generally, each lecture period will involve a discussion that centers around questions posed or demonstrations done in class. An appropriate section of the course text will be assigned to provide background information for this discussion. Each reading assignment is associated with a 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 provided in the text.

For each chapter 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. Generally, the answers to these problems are available in the text. If you feel you need additional problems to practice applying your understanding, make use of the supplementary material available through a link at the end of each chapter. If you require additional assistance in order to understand fundamental concepts discussed in the text and in class, there are also tutorial videos available through links in Moodle.

Quizzes will be given regularly through Moodle. These quizzes are timed and must be completed before the due date. Each quiz will consist of 8-18 multiple-choice questions dealing with the material discussed most recently in class. You are expected to be able to answer these quiz questions without notes or other resources.
Tentative Course Grading

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent of Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>225 pts</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Total</td>
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Plus/minus grades will be assigned when appropriate. (for example, 78% = B+)

Each midterm exam will test your mastery of material discussed in class since the previous exam. The final exam will be cumulative. The tentative dates for the two midterm exams and the final exam are indicated on the lecture schedule. Please note that THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. If you miss an exam for a valid, documented reason, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned for this exam. The online quizzes will deal with current lecture topics. The dates during which each quiz may taken are listed in the Moodle course. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.

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. Do a careful read of each reading assignment before it is discussed in class. This allows you to think about the material and identify areas that are not clear. Keep a list of questions about anything that is not clear and raise these 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, note any questions that you have about any items that are not clear.

♦ When you have finished a topic, test your skills by doing the chapter exercises 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 the supplemental problems or by viewing the tutorial videos. 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.
Course Text: The required text for this course is only available online as a hypertext. You may print all sections of this text and/or use it online at any Internet point of access. You may purchase an access code document for the text at the CSUN Bookstore. You must submit this document to your CHEM 100 instructor by September 13, 2013 in order to have access to the course text material throughout the fall semester. This access may not be shared and is non-transferable. As a courtesy, several sections of the CHEM 100 hypertext are immediately available online at http://www.csun.edu/~hcchm003/100/100.html so that you may access the text material while deciding whether to continue in the course and ultimately purchase text access. **No refunds will be given for the return of the access code document to the Bookstore.**

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”. **Incomplete 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/).