GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION FOR CHEM 102

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Course Website URL: http://www.csun.edu/~hcchm003/102/102.html

Course Description

Chem 102 is the second-semester course of the year-long general chemistry sequence. It is a lecture/recitation course and must be taken with the co-requisite lab (Chem 102L). The emphasis in Chem 102 is on the introduction of fundamental chemical principles used to characterize matter. A solid understanding of these principles is required for success in subsequent chemistry courses. The topics emphasized in Chem 102 include: chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid-base chemistry, thermodynamics, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent of Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥ 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥ 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recitation</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Total</td>
<td>500</td>
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Plus/minus grades will be assigned when appropriate. (for example, 78% = B+)

Each semester exam will test your mastery of material discussed in class since the previous exam. The tentative dates for the three exams, and the material covered by each, are noted 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. Recitation quizzes will deal with current lecture topics and will be announced in lecture. 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 and in recitation. Do a quick read of each assignment in the text before it is discussed in class. This allows you to think about the material and identify areas that are not clear. Any questions you have about the material should be asked at the earliest opportunity.

♦ Take careful notes in class. It is not just important to take notes on the information written on the board. After class, summarize all class discussions in your notes. Try to record examples and stories that will help you “recreate” the class session when you study later. Ask questions about any sections you have difficulty reconstructing. Your notes will be your most important reference when preparing for exams and quizzes, so strive to make it as complete and organized as possible.

♦ Ask questions in class and make note of anything that is not clear so you can also ask questions later. Most students are reluctant to ask what they fear is a “dumb question”. There is no such thing as a dumb question. You can bet that many of your classmates have very similar questions about the material. This kind of dialogue between students and instructor is what makes classroom time so valuable, so take full advantage of this opportunity.
♦ Reread the relevant text assignment after the lecture. Look at all the worked examples and try all practice problems. Keep a list of questions that you have about any items that are not clear and be sure to get answers to them as soon as you can; e-mailing your instructor the same day with your questions is a good practice.

♦ When you have finished a reading assignment, 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 means that you are developing 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 similar, unassigned 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.

Drop Deadline: The last day to drop this course with instructor approval is September 14, 2012. Any request to drop this course after this deadline must satisfy University regulations (http://www.csun.edu/anr/soc/adj sched.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 is a very serious offense and will be dealt with according to the faculty policy described in the University Catalog (Appendix E).