

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Rose, Office: Room 223 CFS Building, phone: (936) 294-4381 , for office hours--- see below

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Required Materials:

textbook: General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry, 5th ed. by Karen Timberlake, Chapters 1-11, available at bookstores and from internet sites or for an "e-textbook" go to coursesmart.com (these are about half the price of a book). Previous editions of the text (much cheaper) are also acceptable although less convenient to use.

scantrons: Form 882-E (50 multiple choice answers on each side) one for each of five exams, and the small scantrons Form 815-E (15 mc answers)

basic scientific calculator (TI 30Xa series) or any simple cheap calculator with no memory storage. Other brands and higher number series TI calculators are not approved.

valid email address, and access to Blackboard

Course Description and Objectives: This is a beginning level study of chemistry designed for non-science majors. A study of general chemistry concepts will be used as a basis for exploring the application of those principles to environmental, agricultural, historical, social, and health-related issues. It is expected that college students will have an adequate proficiency in high school level English and math, including basic algebra. Class sessions will involve lectures, interactive exercises, demonstrations, quizzes, assignments, and problem solving. By gaining factual chemistry knowledge and learning the fundamental principles involved, students will improve their scientific thinking, problem solving, and decision making capabilities. The laboratory portion of this course counts for 25% of the overall grade. In order to make a D or higher in this course, you must earn at least a D in both the lecture portion of the course **AND** in the laboratory portion of the course. See your laboratory syllabus for details regarding the laboratory portion of the course. If you fail either the lecture or the lab, you will receive an F for the entire course. And, you will have to retake both of them in order to replace that F.

Lecture Grade Points:

Test 1 ----- 100 pts

Test 2 ----- 100 pts

Test 3 ----- 100 pts

Test 4 ----- 100 pts

Comprehensive Final Exam ----- 100 pts

Graded class activities, quizzes----- bonus pts (These just add to your point total)

400 pts ----- Total Points possible (the lowest test grade is dropped)

Used to determine final lecture grade by the following scale:

Lecture Grade Scale:

360 -- 400 pts ----- A (90% and above)

320 -- 359 pts ----- B (80% and above)

280 -- 319 pts ----- C (70% and above)

240 -- 279 pts ----- D (60% and above)

0 ----- 239 pts ----- F

Course Grade Points:

Total Earned Lecture Points----- 400 points possible

Total Earned Laboratory Points----- 133 (Your points are figured by multiplying your lab % grade times 133)

Total Course Points ----- 533 total points possible

Course Grade Scale: (This is for the grade that will appear on your transcript)

480---533 ----- A (90%)

426---479 ----- B (80%)

373---425 ----- C (70%)

320---372 ----- D (60%)
0---319 ----- F

Tests and Final Exam: There are four tests through the semester, each worth 100 points. Each test covers specific chapters in the text but is cumulative in the sense that the material builds on previous concepts. The student is responsible for bringing a scantron-form 882-E, a #2 pencil, eraser, and **approved** calculator. Sharing of calculators or using cell phones, tablets, or any internet accessible device during tests will not be allowed. There are **NO MAKE UPS** or EARLY EXAMS for **ANY** reason. ANY reason includes if you were sick, overslept your alarm, had a flat tire, were given a speeding ticket, had a family emergency, sick child, required surgery, were summoned to appear in court, participated in an official school event, played on a team, had a job interview, or anything else. You will receive a zero if you miss a test for ANY reason. However, these things do happen, and I know that almost everyone must occasionally miss an exam. And, sometimes illness, athletic events, or problems at home may prevent you from studying effectively or doing your best on an exam. Therefore, my accommodation for such unavoidable situations is to allow you to drop your lowest exam grade (which may be the final if you like your other four test grades). Each of you will have a unique set of circumstances this semester, but I believe this carefully designed policy shows both compassion and fairness to everyone. Blackboard will show a grade for each of the four tests (zero for an absence) as well as for the final exam. That is five grades, but only four of them will count toward your course grade---the lowest one will be ignored by the Blackboard calculation of the total. That may be a zero for a missed test, or even the final exam grade which is comprehensive (covers material from chapters 1-11). Please note that the final exam is NOT any more optional than any other test. If you miss the final, your other four test grades will be used to calculate your course grade---even if one of those grades is a zero due to absence. If you have to miss two tests, then you need to have a conversation with me about the nature of your emergencies and official documentation for each absence. If a student misses more than one test and has obtained my approval for the excuses, then the first missed test will be a dropped grade, and the comprehensive final exam grade will substitute for the others. Reviews for each test will be posted on Blackboard to give you guidance on what to study in each chapter. Also, in lecture, I often specifically point out information that will be on the test. Grades will be posted on Blackboard, but you are cautioned to disregard the averages and totals its programs calculate for you, and do your own adding instead. Your grade is based on total points, not an average. For the test schedule, see below.

Class Activities and Quizzes: These may occur without notice, and will cover material from any previously assigned homework or lecture discussion. You are responsible for bringing a small scantron with you to class, and will forfeit your quiz points if you do not have one. Sometimes an assignment or graded activity may substitute for a quiz. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. These are bonus points and are the **ONLY EXTRA CREDIT** available in the course. There are **NO MAKE UPS** for missed quizzes or activities, including those missed due to tardiness.

Homework: Material from the text and handout will be assigned to understand or memorize. Also, you are encouraged to work problems at the end of each section and at the end of chapters that are similar to what we have done in class. Red numbered problems have answers given at the end of each chapter. This is valuable feedback about your understanding of the material if you check answers AFTER you have worked the problems. I do not collect the homework for credit, but I may put similar problems on quizzes or tests. Work as many problems from the chapter as you need to in order to learn the concepts---it's up to you. I also strongly encourage you to think/work through the Sample Problems and Study Checks as they appear throughout the text, and use the Concept Map, Chapter Review, Key Terms, and Math and Chemistry Skills sections in studying for the tests. In addition, I sometimes post extra practice problems on Blackboard, along with their answers. It is often helpful for students to study and work problems with a "study buddy" or in small study groups as long as this is not a substitute for figuring the concepts out for yourself. After labs have begun meeting, some TAs will be assigned for tutoring hours. The times, place, and days for these will be posted in the classroom and on Blackboard. The department pays for this tutoring---it is totally free to you---all you have to do is just show up with your questions. And, you can always come get help directly from me. Assignments, grades, updates, and other materials will be posted on Blackboard. It is each student's responsibility to check for these.

Attendance: I am required to take attendance for each class session. Therefore, seating will be assigned during the first week for purposes of recording attendance. If you fail to sit in your assigned seat, you will be marked absent. If you leave early, you may be marked absent unless you have already received approval from me to do so. If you arrive tardy after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to see me **immediately after class** to ensure you are not marked absent for the entire class. Two tardies count as one absence. Since this course is designed for non-science majors, the classroom experience is directed toward explanation and visual demonstration of concepts, discussion of real world applications, and interactive solving of problems. Regular attendance is the only way to benefit from this. Students with many absences, even EXCUSED ones, generally perform poorly in this course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes, announcements, and assignments from any missed class session. I realize that a well-rounded student has important parts of life outside of school that may sometimes result in time conflicts. There are many good excuses for being absent. My grading policy builds in a "safety net" with a dropped test and bonus quiz points, which combines an element of benefit (for those really deserving or needing it) with an element of penalty (to discourage abuse). Any exceptions to a policy make it unfair for those to whom exceptions were denied, and puts me in the position of having to decide relative merits. I will sympathize with you over your circumstances and help you in any way I can, but **do not expect any exceptions to the above policy**. Each student in my class will be given the same consideration as every other student. I will assume that you have a good excuse for being absent. Written official excuses (i.e. from a doctor, policeman, judge, school sponsor, etc.) are NOT needed unless you miss more than one test.

Classroom conduct: Students are expected to treat other students and faculty with respect, participate in class when called on or by volunteering, and maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experience. The use of cell phones, MP3 players, and similar electronic devices is not allowed. If you use a computer, it should be to take notes, and not to chat, surf, access Facebook or check email. Lectures may be recorded provided the process does not disturb the class. Attention getting behavior, inappropriate talking, noisiness, and lack of attention are considered disrespectful, and the student will be asked to leave the classroom. Any disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in points being docked from the final grade.

Communication: Announcements, changes, grades, assignments, etc. will be made during regular class time, through email, and through postings on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to check these sources and to get any information missed due to absences. Also, all students need to make sure that their email is functional. Due to time constraints and class size, questions during class must sometimes be limited. However, I am quite willing to help any student during office hours, or by appointment, or through email. I make every attempt to respond promptly to student emails, but do not generally return missed phone calls.

Tentative Test Schedule: (may change---keep your plans flexible):

Test One-----Friday, February 9th

Test Two-----Monday, March 5th

Test Three-----Friday, April 6th

Test Four-----Wednesday, May 2nd

Final Exam-----probably Wednesday, May 9th at 9-11, but will update you as time approaches

Office Hours (tentative): MWF---10-11, 1-2, and briefly at 4. Thursdays, and other times by appt. only. Please note that I may sometimes have an appointment with another student or be out of the office grading exams or in a meeting. If you want to be sure to meet with me, you should let me know ahead of time. Also, I will answer questions by email, and can sometimes make special arrangements to see a student with time conflicts. I often keep my office door locked---that does not mean I am gone. Please knock to see if I am there.

University Policy: All university policies and procedures will be followed. More information can be found at www.shsu.edu/syllabus. with links to more specific policy descriptions.