

COURSE SYLLABUS, CHEM 4380 FORENSIC CHEMISTRY, 3 CREDIT HOURS

You will need all of the following:

- Required Textbook: Forensic Chemistry, 2nd Edition, Bell, Pearson, 2012. (ISBN-13: 978-0321765758)
- One composition notebook for vocabulary and worked problems
- Four Scantron Forms (882-E)
- A way to scan your homework into a pdf format for uploading to blackboard. The CamScanner App is a good choice.

Course Information

- Darren L. Williams, Ph.D. (a.k.a. DW)
 - Office: CFS 317 G, Campus Box 2117, Huntsville, TX 77340
 - Contact (936)294-1529, http://www.shsu.edu/~chm_dlw/
 - Office hours are posted after the TA schedules are set. Email Williams@shsu.edu for an appointment
- Lecture will meet in CFS 123 on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 to 9:20 AM.

Course Description from the Catalog

This is a one semester course focused on surveying important aspects of chemistry to forensic inquiries. Focus will be on the validity of results. Techniques and methods for selecting proper techniques to answer various questions will be discussed. Writing Enhanced. Credit 3. Prerequisites: A minimum grade of C in CHEM 1311/1111, 1312/1112, 2323/2123, 2325/2125, 4440 and 4367 (or concurrent enrollment in CHEM 4367); MATH 1420. Spring.

Course Objectives from the IDEA Survey

1. IDEA Objective #1: Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. IDEA Objective #2: Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

Enabling Objectives

1. Studying the requirements of critical-quality analysis of drugs and physical evidence including accelerants, explosives, inks, paints, polymers, and fibers.
2. Following a data-generating process daily, charting its performance weekly, and reporting on its control periodically.
3. Writing quality control reports detailing the performance of a process over the semester and posting these reports on a shared Internet service.

Assessment

To determine the final course grade, your numerical average will be compared to course requirements, to peer performance, and to the definitions set forth in the University Catalog ([Scholastic Requirements](#)). Specific grade cut-off values are not predetermined because of the semester-by-semester variation of exams, classes, hurricanes, and other circumstances. TENTATIVE LETTER GRADES are provided to allow you to make an informed decision related to the drop dates.

Exams

Exam dates are on the Blackboard schedule. Exam questions will be similar to the practice test questions. Exams will remain the property of SHSU.

Table 1: Weighting factors	
Items	Weight
In Class (Attendance, Preparation, and Participation)	Required
Outside of Class (Participation in Homework Exercises, Control Charting, Responsiveness)	20%
Exams (four equally weighted)	80%

Missed exams:

There are no make-up examinations. To avoid a zero, you must satisfy these conditions:

1. You were absent on the exam date.
2. You telephoned in advance or left a voice mail message or email message reporting the absence along with a description of why you will miss (have missed) the exam. (All information will be kept in strict confidence.)

The grading scheme may be modified such that the final exam may compensate for the missed exam course percentage. An exam grade of 0% will be given if the absence was not properly handled or was unjustified. Appeals will follow University Policy Statement 900823, Academic Grievance Procedures for Students.

The final exam is Tuesday, May 8, from 8 to 10 AM.

Outside of Class Participation (Homework, Control Charting, Responsiveness)

Documentation of Homework Effort: The purpose of homework is to help YOU learn the material. You will create a problems composition book. A pdf scan of hand-written homework problems and vocabulary will be uploaded to blackboard **EVERY THURSDAY by 11:59 PM**. Pages of *substantial effort* are 1 point apiece up to 8 points. Four notecards count as a page. Eight points per week are required. (Only 8 points are required because of the required weekly control charting activities.) No late submissions or hard-copies will be accepted. *Waiting until Thursday night may cause you to have 0 points for that week if there are computer problems.* **Practice Tests:** will be on Blackboard, and you can use these to test yourself and to learn the nature and types of problems that will appear on the exams. **Control Charting:** You will choose a continuously variable process to monitor DAILY the whole semester. The data will become a control chart uploaded to Blackboard **EVERY TUESDAY by 11:59 PM**. The whole semester will be evaluated in a final quality report.

Responsiveness is critical in “the real world”. Often action is needed on your part in response to an email, and you must respond accordingly. A gradebook item will be used to keep track of those who 1) become “unresponsive”, 2) lose emails, or 3) reach the storage limits of their campus inbox. DW will not use off-campus emails, because private email accounts are not allowed in some “real world” employment situations. You should learn how to clean up and use your campus account.

In-Class Participation (Attendance, Preparation, and Participation)

- When considering letter grades, students who are on the edge of a grade cut-off will receive the lower letter grade if they have regularly missed class or have shown themselves to be poorly prepared or have shown little interest in the material.
- **Lecture Attendance and Participation** will be recorded by your login ID (abc123) via Kahoot Quizzes. **Preparedness:** Sloppy behavior like showing up to the exam without a scantron will be noted. **Engagement:** Falling asleep or failing to engage in classroom discussions will be noted.

Academic Dishonesty

- What takes a lifetime to build, but can be destroyed in a few seconds? Your reputation.
- Dishonesty will RUIN your chances of working anywhere near a crime lab.
- Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, stealing copies of exams, using stolen copies of exams, and the abuse of resource materials. DW has never released his old exams, so any copies of his old exams are stolen copies. The only approved practice tests are those on Blackboard. Report the existence of outside copies to DW if you find any.
- DW may ask you for an oral explanation of work submitted to determine if you actually performed the work. This should not be construed as an accusation of academic dishonesty. Only in cases where you cannot demonstrate the most basic explanation of what you submitted as your original work will there be any question of dishonesty.
- If DW believes that exam work or an assignment is a copy of another student’s work, BOTH students may receive a grade of 0%, and disciplinary action will be considered. If the assignment or exam was provided by a student who already had this class, then that student will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process. Unprofessional behavior will be recorded on the roster. Students who are especially disruptive will be asked to leave and may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Employment and Graduate School Recommendations

FYI: Dr. Williams will only write recommendation letters to Forensic Programs for students who make an A in this course.

Other Disclaimers: Visitor Policy Dr. Williams will decide whether or not visitors will be allowed to remain in the classroom. **Americans with Disabilities Act** Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. **Religious Holidays** University policy (APS 861001) and state law (Section 51.911(b), Texas Education Code) require that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day fill out form (see APS 861001) in the first week of class. This form must be signed by the instructor, the student, and approved by the departmental chair. **Course Material Copyright ©2018** Course material, exams, including portions of this syllabus are reserved to Sam Houston State University, and may not be mass-produced, posted online, sold, or reproduced for purposes other than personal use by students registered for this course in the current semester.