

CHEMISTRY

Instructor: Allen Boltz

Course Philosophy and Expectations

This course is a college preparatory project and laboratory-based science class. You will spend more than 60% of class time doing lab and project work. As much as possible, you will practice in class what scientists really do: observing, hypothesizing, questioning, experimenting and drawing conclusions. Learning content (facts) is important, but helping you to think like a scientist (critically, mathematically, logically, using justifications for arguments) is the focus.

Neatness and clarity as well as correct spelling, punctuation and grammar on all assignments are required. Papers that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted. You will be encouraged to do high quality work of which you can be proud. Think about your work; connect content from other disciplines and areas of your life.

Supplies

These items should be brought to class everyday: 3-ring binder (described below), lab notebook, number 2 pencils, pens with standard blue or black ink, and scientific calculator.

Grading

At the end of each unit there is a test. Review questions are given out up to two weeks before the test to help you review material and act as a guide in studying. Tests are made directly from the review/study guide. It is expected that you will take 10 minutes every day to study what we are working on in class. Learning occurs best with short study periods rather than "cramming" for 2-3 hours.

The class grade is based primarily on project and laboratory write-ups, papers and other assignments, quizzes, tests, and keeping a notebook. The grading scale is as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: Below 59%.

All class handouts are kept in a file on the front desk so they can be retrieved if absent. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and make up assignments missed due to excused absences

Further Expectations

- Assignments are due at the beginning of the period. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. One late assignment per semester may be turned in up to a week after the assignment is due. Other than this exception, no late work will be accepted.
- Chemistry notebooks will be collected and graded every other Monday.
- Plagiarism, copying another student's work or allowing another student to copy your work will result in a zero for all involved.
- Students with an excused absence have one day for each absence to make up missed work without being considered late. Be in your seat when class begins.
- Due to the nature of the chemical nature of the work, eating will not be allowed in class; please finish any food before class

Notebook Setup

Your notebook will need five dividers.

In front of the first divider will be your Assignment Record Sheet.

Your tabs will be labeled:

- Syllabus et al
- Notes
- Homework
- Reflections
- Paper

Lab notebooks

All lab work, experiments, etc will be logged and observations collected in your lab notebook. These notebooks will remain in class at all times.