

Instructor: L. Heiny
Course: General Chemistry

Email: lheiny@avhsd.org
Room: 224

Course Description

General chemistry is a two-semester science course introducing chemical theories, their application, and laboratory procedures. Certain sections of chemistry include heavy math (e.g., Gas laws and stoichiometry). The high school chemistry course provides students with a solid foundation with which they may proceed to take a more advanced level of science. The course is divided into 6 units providing an overview of the structure of matter, the atomic theory, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid and base behavior, and organic chemistry.

State Standards

This course follows the California Content Standards for Chemistry. Students must download a copy of the standards and frameworks for each standard [copies are available TheChemBook.com]. Download and print these documents as we start each unit.

Expectations

You will do your best at all times, including times you are confused, baffled, petrified, scared witless, and in tears from worry. Doing anything less than doing your best is not acceptable. *This means you will not be late, you will not talk during assignments, and you will not put your head down and say you are tired; absolutely NO MULTITASKING. You MUST learn to focus.*

Grading

Students will work through assignments at a very fast pace. Please realize that high school chemistry is a very difficult course to earn an "A." Students will need to spend weeknights completing the homework and studying the major concepts just to pass the course.

Task	Percentages	
Assignments	25%	A > 90% ; B > 80%; C > 70%; D > 60%; F is assigned to work below 59% Failure to read the textbook may result in failing the course. Remember to ask questions.
Labs	25%	
Quizzes	5%	
Tests	25%	
Midterm	5%	
Final	15%	

Zero versus Blank

A zero is placed for any missing assignment. No extra credit is earned if the student has a zero in the grade book. Blanks in the grade book represent un-graded or uncollected assignments.

Lectures

Lectures are an important part to learning chemistry. Students must be prepared to take notes. Copies of the lectures are available on TheChemBook.com. However, students should not consider these notes as a substitute for listening during the lecture, working the problems, or reading the textbook.

Students must keep this document in their 3-ring binder.

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Tutoring

Students may need help from time to time. There are four chemistry teachers on the Knight High School campus; all four are capable of helping students enrolled in chemistry.

Textbook

Zumdahl, S. S., Zumdahl, S. L., & DeCoste, D. J. (2002). *World of Chemistry*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Classroom Websites

www.thechembook.com

Materials

1. Calculator. Students must bring a calculator to class every day, as well as the manual for using the calculator. Do NOT purchase an expensive graphing calculator.
2. 3-ring binder. The number of handouts for this course is high. Students may wish to be more organized by having a 3-ring binder to hold their papers.
3. Black and blue ink pens. Students must have a black and blue ink pens each day. No other color is acceptable.
4. Number 2 pencils. Students must purchase and bring to class #2 pencils for working class assignments and lab work. I prefer to use mechanical pencils. This is your choice.
5. 3-hole punched, college ruled paper. Students must purchase regular 3-holed punched college ruled paper for their homework. No paper ripped from a spiral notebook is acceptable.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is only available to students who complete work and who are trying every day to understand chemistry. The instructor has the final word.

Parents / Guardians

Please realize that your student will be under tremendous stress during the school year. Chemistry is not easy and requires focus and attention. You may check grades by asking your student for his 3-ring binder or check online. If the student does not have a 3-ring binder filled with work then consider **this missing document as a big red flag**. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate in emailing me. Please do not ask me how your student can pass. Students who work diligently will pass. There are no supplementary instructions for this course. Please watch carefully throughout the year and do not wait until the last week of the school year.

Place the first two pages in the chemistry 3-ring binder. **The third page is to be signed and turned in as the first assignment.** Students who do not keep the document in their 3-ring binder may not receive credit.

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This signature page is turned in to the instructor as the first assignment. The instructor will keep these documents in a binder away from students. The pages will be destroyed at the end of the year.

Student

I have read the first two pages of the syllabus; understand the importance of reading the textbook, listening to lectures and demos, and working problems. If I copy homework from a friend then I understand that I may not receive credit.

[Print Full Name]

[Sign Your Full Name]

Parent / Guardian

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand this document. Please email me anytime you have questions. You may want to check www.thechembook.com forums for the types of questions students are asking.

[Print Full Name]

[Sign Your Full Name]

[Telephone Number]

[Email Address]

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help your student learn chemistry.

Students must keep this document in their 3-ring binder.