

OPEN DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

General Chemistry

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West High School

Room: T-218

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I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A science course which emphasizes chemistry's modern theoretical development. Descriptive chemistry, with emphasis on the structure and periodicity of the elements will complete the course.

II. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Utah has developed a core curriculum which outlines specific standards for student learning. The core curriculum includes ideas, concepts, and skills which provide a foundation on which subsequent learning may be built

III. **LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

Class discussions, Lectures, Assigned problems and questions (mostly worksheets)
Laboratory experimentation, Examinations, Quizzes (may be given daily), and Demonstrations

IV. **SPECIAL RULES:**

- A. Safety-goggles **MUST** be worn by all individuals, **ON THEIR EYES**, AT ALL TIMES IN THE LABORATORY. Students may bring their own goggles. Close toed shoes and pants (without holes) are required in the lab. Skirts/Dresses may be worn if they reach the ankle.
- B. Students that do not adhere to laboratory safety rules will not be allowed to work in the lab and will receive no credit for lab work.
- C. Students are expected to adhere to the school attendance and tardy policies in relation to home excuses, school excused absences, and school admit slips.
- D. Cheating on assignments or tests creates a very unpleasant atmosphere in the classroom. In being honest with me, yourself, and your classmates, we are all making the statement that we do not approve of unethical practices. Cheating on assignments or tests will result in a failing grade (score of 0) on the assignment or test for **ALL** parties involved. This includes lab write-ups.
- E. Each student is expected to bring a pen or pencil and a dedicated notebook for chemistry. Notebook requirements are listed below.
- H. Before participating in ANY lab, the student must return the Flinn Scientific's Student Safety Contract signed by both the student and the parent/guardian.

V. **GRADING SYSTEM:**

- A. The student will complete classroom assignments to the satisfaction of the teacher. The grading standards will change during the year as the students' skills improve.
- B. Final grades are calculated with the following weighted average:
Daily Grades = 25 %, Notebook Checks = 10% Quizzes = 15%, Labs = 20%, Tests = 25%, Test Corrections = 5%.
- C. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 92% - 100% A | 82% - 87% B | 72% - 77% C | 62% - 67% D |
| 90% - 91% A- | 80% - 81% B- | 70% - 71% C- | 60% - 61% D- |
| 88% - 89% B+ | 78% - 79% C+ | 68% - 69% D+ | < 60% F |

- D. Due to the nature of labs, it may not be possible to make them up if missed. If a lab is missed due to an EXCUSED absence, then an alternate assignment will be offered to the student instead of receiving a 0 (zero).
- E. If a student continues to break lab rules, then he/she will not be allowed to participate in any further labs resulting in a 0 (zero) for all subsequent labs.
- F. Tests may be made up before or after school hours; the student should make arrangements to take the test prior to an absence or on the first Monday after school after the test is given. **Tests must be made up within this timeframe or a 0 will be the score assigned to the student.**
- G. Academic success is dependent upon participation in the classroom activities. Absences cannot be used as an excuse for being unprepared or for not completing assignments.
- H. I expect assignments to be handed in on time; as a general rule, late work will **NOT** be accepted. If there are unusual circumstances, the student will need to consult with the teacher.
- I. A student's progress in the class may be accessed through the power school grading system at any time.

VI. **Materials Needed by Every Student:**

- A. One **composition notebook** (one in which pages cannot be removed) for labs. This notebook should be only used for labs. Any pages torn out or any non-lab related writing in the lab notebook will result in a grade penalty.
- B. Notebook for taking notes and keeping up with handouts and worksheets. This can be either a **3-ring binder with loose leaf paper** or a **binder in addition to a notebook** for actual note taking.
- C. **Pen(s) and pencil(s)** are suggested for this class. Either can be used for notes,

worksheets, quizzes, and quizzes, but only non-erasable ink pen(s) should be used for labs.

VII. Typical Grading Practices

- A. Daily Grades (worksheets, notetaking) are usually graded for completion. If an assignment is to be graded for accuracy, this will be stated before the assignment. The purpose of these assignments is for students to attempt (with appropriate effort) every problem. The following day students will be told the correct answers and afforded the opportunity to ask questions about anything they did not get correct.
- B. Notebook Checks will occur randomly throughout the term. In order to get full credit on a notebook check, a student will need have an organized notebook in which notes, handouts, and worksheets are easily accessible and accurate. In order to be successful in any science, being detail oriented and organized is very important.
- C. Quizzes and Tests are graded on accuracy. Partial credit can be awarded if a student partially solves a problem. Quizzes may or may not be announced and will typically occur at the beginning of class. If a student comes late to class, and the tardiness is unexcused, extra time to take the quiz will not be allotted and if the entire timeframe for the quiz is missed then the student will receive a zero.
- D. Make-up Work is the responsibility of the student. The student must see what assignments he/she missed the first day back after an absence. These assignments are due the following class (unless multiple days were missed).

VIII. Teacher Availability

- A. All times listed below are subject to change, but rarely do.
- B. After school
 - a. The teacher will be available on Mondays after school for either make-up work or tutoring. No appointment is needed, but students should be in the classroom by 2:40. If no students are there by 2:40, the teacher may cancel that session of tutoring / make-up time.
- C. Before school
 - a. The teacher will be available almost every day at 7:15 am for make-up work or tutoring.
- D. Additional times
 - a. If these times do not work for a student, additional arrangements can be made on a case to case basis.