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Office: Etscorn Honors Center
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Lectures: TR 11:00, CB B16

Recitations: A, B, C, D

Instructor's Office Hours: M 11:00–12:00, T 1:00–2:00 (Honors Center), or appointment, or drop in.

NOTE: Due to the prevalence of spam I will only open e-mail that has something obvious in the subject line. Examples include CHEM 201 question, Gen Chem, etc.

PREREQUISITES: The prerequisites for this course are a math ACT score of 24 or higher; registration in Intermediate Algebra; or, enough background to qualify for Math 190 or EAC 100. A high school course in chemistry is recommended but not required.

TEXT: *CHEMISTRY: The Molecular Nature of Matter and Change*, 4th Ed. by Silberberg. The format of the book is discussed in the preface and early sections. Material to be covered will be taken from Chapters 1-11, but not everything in those chapters will be covered. Material not covered will be announced in class.

COURSE OUTLINE: Chemistry 201 is the first semester of the mainstream general chemistry course. It is appropriate for students interested in science, engineering, pre-professional and other majors. The course consists of the main lecture and a recitation section. The Honors work will be conducted in the recitation and this work will contribute to the grade (see below).

COURSE GOALS: This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts and tools to understand chemistry. Emphasis will be placed on the understanding of the physical nature of materials and the structure of atoms and molecules. This course will follow the textbook but will rely on different examples in order to provide a broader understanding of the material.

ATTENDANCE: Except for exams and quizzes attendance is not required. However, regular attendance will ease the process of learning and significantly improve your overall understanding of the material. The scheduled class time for official bad weather days ('snow' days) is 1:30 - 2:30.

EVALUATION: The course grade is based on three in-class exams (100 points each), a recitation grade (100 points), and a final exam (200 points), for a total of 600 points. The recitation grade will consist of a variety of in-class (recitation) activities; details will be provided in recitation. Dates for all exams are given on the attached schedule; exams must be taken during the scheduled times. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. A missed in-class exam will count as zero and will be calculated as such. There are some instances where a student may miss an exam for a justifiable cause such as surgery. In these cases students should inform the Senior Instructor before the exam, if possible, and should produce written evidence such as a Doctor's note. There will not be a make-up exam but arrangements will be made to avoid a zero. Excuses such as traffic, dead battery, etc. are not considered. An exam canceled due to the official closing of the university will be held during the next lecture slot.

Every effort is made to grade the exams as quickly as possible and this process is generally complete within 1-2 weekdays. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Scaling of exam and recitation grades can sometimes occur. Grades can be scaled up but will never be scaled down.

FINAL GRADE: The final letter grade for the course will correlate with the ranges given below (NOTE: +/- is not used). These are guaranteed minima and will apply to the final scaled percentage (if a scale is applied) of all exams and recitations. 'Borderline' cases (within 1-2 % of a cutoff point for a letter grade) will be reviewed at the end of the semester. A decision to bump a grade to the next grade range will depend on factors such as participation in class, a positive trend in exam scores, and performance on the final exam.

	A	B	C	D	F
%	87.5 - 100	75.0 – 87.4	62.5 – 74.9	50.0 – 62.4	< 49.9
points	525 - 600	450 - 524	375 - 449	300 - 374	< 299

PROBLEM SOLVING: Understanding chemistry is made easier by a lot of problem solving. A large number of problems is given at the end of each chapter in the text and selected problems are listed for each chapter on the class schedule. Study the material before attempting the problems and do not simply copy the answers from a solutions manual. Do as many of these problems as possible and when you have difficulty ask the Senior Instructor. **GENERALLY HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE GRADED.**

CALCULATOR: A calculator will be essential for problem solving and exams. Be certain you understand how to use the calculator. A basic calculator with math functions and scientific notation is required for this course; there is no need for graphing or calculus functions. Calculators capable of storing alphanumeric characters are banned from exams and will be confiscated if found.

HELP: Study materials for this course are available on reserve in Ekstrom Library. These materials include the text, related texts, and an Instructors Solutions Manual (answers to all problems in the text). Copies of the exams that I have given the past three years are available through Blackboard WORD files. These exams do not cover all of the material from lectures but do provide a good overview and practice.

This course can be challenging; for many it will be difficult. The most important guidelines for success include regular attendance, good lecture notes, reading the chapters in the text, problem solving in a timely fashion, and utilizing the available assistance. The first place for assistance is the classroom - do not be afraid to ask questions. Assistance is also provided by the Supplemental Instruction (SI) program provided by the University; the meeting times and locations for SI sessions will be announced when available. I am also available for questions at any time either in person (schedule permitting) or by e-mail.

EXAM HELP SESSION: I will hold help sessions before each exam. These sessions are based on a relatively open format and typically last 2-3 hours, but students are free to leave at any time. The time and location for the help sessions will be announced in lecture. If there is demand I will also consider weekly or biweekly help sessions.

It is very easy to fall behind in this class, and it is also very dangerous. It is the student's responsibility to maintain the pace to the best of ability and to take advantage of the various forms of help when necessary.