

College Prep Chemistry 245
Course Syllabus 2024-2025
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Course Description

Chemistry is a lab-based course where students will gain an understanding of the composition and structure of matter and the changes it undergoes in nature. Students are expected to apply their mathematical skills to solve practical problems and to analyze data from laboratory experimentation. Students will be required to prepare detailed lab reports after performing experiments that illustrate key concepts. Based upon their study of classical and quantum theories of the atom, students will be able to explain the trends evident in the periodic table and the nature of covalent and ionic bonding between atoms. Students will study stoichiometry, the rate of chemical reactions, and solubility rules based upon an independent review of nomenclature.

Course Overview

Various instructional activities will serve to highlight the major aspects of a particular topic by focusing upon the pertinent theory and problem-solving techniques. Students will be required to perform small-group laboratory experiments as part of each unit of study.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Observation & Matter
Unit 2: Atoms & The Periodic Table
Unit 3: Chemical Bonding & Gas Laws
Unit 4: The Mole
Unit 5: Stoichiometry

MacBook Use

Students are responsible for bringing their district-provided MacBook device fully charged and operational to class each day. The device may be required for the administration of an assessment or for the completion of a learning activity where no paper option is available. Failure to have an operational MacBook may adversely impact the scoring of graded assignments.

Assessments

Only students with special needs (IEP & 504) are eligible for reassessment and extended time on tests, quizzes and assignments. Students with an IEP with a provision for extended time must make such arrangements prior to the administration of any assessment. If the assessment must be divided into one or more sections to allow for additional time, the students must complete the remaining section(s) the same or the next school day during tutorial, grade room, or after school.

Extra credit is *not* available on an individual basis in this class.

Textbook

Inspire Chemistry © 2020 (digital version)

Grading

All marking period grades are calculated using a weighted average:

- **Tests (40%)** - There will be three or four major tests each marking period - one per unit. If you are absent the day before a test, you are not excused from taking the test on the day of the test.
- **Quizzes (15%)** - There may be one or more quizzes per unit.
- **Lab Reports and Projects (25%)** - Lab reports are due two to four days after the lab is performed. If you are absent the day a lab is performed, you must make up the lab. You cannot receive credit for a lab report if you do not perform the lab. Students are obligated to follow lab safety rules and reimburse the school for any damage made to the equipment. No food or drink is allowed to be consumed in the lab.
- **Classwork and Homework (20%)** - Homework will be collected periodically throughout the marking period. Homework will be given a grade of, (4) complete, (2) incomplete, (0) not submitted.
- **Missed Work:** When a student does not submit an assignment or complete an assessment (quiz/test) for reasons other than an unexcused absence, a (M)issing code will be posted to the GENESIS grade book which will assign a grade of zero, until the student completes the assignment/assessment in keeping with department practice. In cases where the student has exceeded the allowed number of excused absences (6 for semester and 3 for quarter courses), an (NC) code will be posted to the grade book assigning a grade of zero. Although no credit can be awarded, the student is expected to complete the missed work to benefit from teacher feedback.

Extra Help

- We are available (at least one of us) during Tutorial from 7:30am-7:55am on:
 - MP1: M T W R F
 - MP2: M T W R F
 - MP3: M T W R F
 - MP4: M T W R F

Assessment

The department must ensure the security of common summative assessments administered each semester and across multiple sections taught by several teachers. Assessments in some cases may include publisher copyrighted content prohibiting retention by students. For these reasons, some graded assessments will only be available for students to review during class time, but returned and retained by the teacher.

Although students lose ownership rights to assessments submitted through Google Classroom, the ownership reverts to students upon return of these graded assignments. These graded assignments may also be retained by the teacher *after review by students* to minimize the possibility of plagiarism by other students. Students copying and/or distributing any part of a

secure test or submitted assignment will be subject to disciplinary action in keeping with the academic dishonesty policy.

Course Materials

Materials provided electronically or by hardcopy to students supporting or supplementing instruction are specific to the teacher and the particular level and section of this course. Students should not use or distribute copies of materials made available for another section or by another teacher of the same without permission.

Group Instructional Activities

One of the purposes of assigning group instructional activities is to encourage the development of communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills within a collaborative team setting paralleling the real-world work environment. Students are responsible for determining the division of labor among classmates when completing an assigned group task. Therefore, unless otherwise noted, all students will receive the **same** grade for a group activity.

Technology Access

Classroom documents, assessments, and other media may require the student to have access to web enabled technologies outside of class time. If for any reason, a student does not have access to such technologies, he/she is responsible for contacting the teacher **before** any deadlines for assessments to make alternate arrangements.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidelines

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology offers a wide range of tools and resources that can enhance your learning experience, personalize your education, and better prepare you for the future. You will have access to AI-powered tools that can help you gather information more efficiently and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To ensure your safety and security, all AI tools and platforms will comply with federal and state regulations regarding data protection, including FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). You will be provided with specific [guidelines](#) as to the appropriate and acceptable use of AI. Failure to document your use of AI when completing an assignment will be considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy.

Assignments

The Rancocas Valley Regional High School District strongly supports independent practice and the extension of learning as an integral part of a student's academic program. Student achievement increases when homework is regularly assigned and when students complete it as part of their total program. Homework encourages student self-discipline, independence, and responsibility. Homework assignments can serve to help students practice previously-learned material, learn new material, incorporate higher-order thinking skills, and improve study skills.

Parents are encouraged to access Genesis on a regular basis to monitor student progress on assignments. Students are expected to submit all work by the required due date. No new daily assignments due the next school day will be posted after school hours unless advanced notice has been communicated directly to students. Additionally, nothing that supports a daily assignment will be posted after school hours. Parents are encouraged to provide an

environment in which students can complete homework. It is important that parents be aware of the types of assignments given and assignment deadlines so that they can monitor effectively.

It is the practice of the Science & Technology Department to reduce credit by 10% for each school day that any assignment is submitted after the due date to a maximum of three days at which time no credit will be given for the assignment.

Students absent for any reason are expected to make up missed work. The student shall be responsible for requesting missed assignments and any assistance required. **In general, students will be allowed one (1) day to make up missed work for each one (1) day of an excused absence. Reasonable accommodations will be made to extend time for students as warranted. Any class cut may result in a grade of zero for the work that was missed that day (including assessments). For any unexcused absences over six per semester course (three per quarter course) will result in a grade of zero for all assignments AND assessments administered on those dates, as per the district attendance policy.**

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Cheating on examinations, includes but is not limited to, the non-authorized use of books or notes, the use of crib sheets, copying from other students' papers, exchanging information with other students orally, in writing, or by signals, obtaining copies of the examination illegally and other similar activities. Plagiarism is not permitted in term papers, themes, essays, reports, images, take-home examinations, and other academic work.

Plagiarism is defined as stealing or use without acknowledgment of the ideas, words, formulas, textual materials, online services, computer programs, etc. of another person, or in any way presenting the work of another person as one's own. This would also include students submitting work products that they have submitted previously to other teachers or institutions. Falsifications, includes forging signatures, altering answers after they have been graded, the insertion of answers after the fact, the erasure of grader's markings, and other acts that allow for falsely taking credit.

A student found guilty of academic dishonesty may be subjected to a full range of penalties including, but not limited to, reprimand and loss of credit for all of plagiarized work. Any student who lends his/her work to another and thus facilitates an act of plagiarism is subject to the same consequences. Any graded assignment (e.g. homework, classwork, tests, quizzes, research projects, etc.) that the teacher deems to be plagiarized or copied will result in a zero for the assignment.

A student will be permitted to resubmit an assignment (not applicable to tests and quizzes) for half credit if the assignment is valued at more than 10% of the total number of points for the quarter. The assignment must be resubmitted within two days of being notified by the teacher that the assignment is plagiarized in some fashion. Teachers must report incidents of academic dishonesty to the discipline office.

Any student who lends his/her work is subject to the same consequences. If the student lending the work or facilitating the academic dishonesty has already completed the course that is involved, disciplinary action will be taken in lieu of academic penalty.