

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is determined using a total points system. That is, your grade equals sum of the total number of points earned on every assignment divided by the total number of points possible, multiplied by 100%. The resulting percentage is your grade.

$$\text{Grade} = \frac{\text{total points earned}}{\text{total points possible}} \times 100\%$$

The quarterlies you take in this course are designed to be an all-encompassing assessment of the marking period. Realize that since most of the material in chemistry is cumulative in nature, topics from one quarter are often very frequently used as a foundation for skills learned in future marking periods. Exams given in this class (tests that take at least half the block) are *usually* administered on material that is not a focal point of a quarterly, yet still deemed to be necessary foundation material. Quizzes are more common, and cover smaller amounts of material. They are designed to not take a lot of class time.

Laboratory experiments are an integral part of this course. All experiments will be performed with the assistance of a lab partner. The report for the lab, which will often utilize a template, will sometimes be completed individually and sometimes done as a group assignment.

Homework will be assigned almost every class. Assignments from the book will be reviewed in class and are meant to become an integral part of your notes. One of the best indicators of student success in the physical sciences is the amount of time devoted to working on problems. If necessary, attempt problems that were *unassigned* as they will provide an excellent means of preparing for quizzes and exams. Homework that will be collected will be announced at the time of assignment.

Late work will incur a penalty that compounds each *day* it is missing, meaning it is a two day penalty from one class to the next. Assignments are generally docked 10% per day, until it is returned to the class or an announcement was made that the assignment will not be accepted late anymore. Due to the intricacies of the schedule, it is possible that an assignment cannot be turned in late. A zero is assigned once any of the aforementioned conditions is met.

Snow days, quarterly weeks, standardized testing and other events often make the schedule irregular. As such it is impossible to guarantee a certain number of graded assignments per week, month, or quarter. It is my intent to assign work that is relevant and meaningful to your skill development. Some units will be more intense than others, so expect an ebb and flow in the level of difficulty of work and the types of assignments you will be asked to complete.

EXPECTATIONS

These are in addition to the district rules/guidelines already given in your planner:

1. Experiments should be an exciting and fun component of the course. However, safety is always an issue during experiments. Improper behavior and horseplay in the lab will result in your removal from lab and an assigned grade of zero. It is also possible you will face disciplinary action from the main office.
2. Keep an organized notebook and/or folder. A three ring binder is probably the best way to keep yourself organized. The information in a chemistry course is cumulative. That is, the material we cover in January, March, and June will require an understanding of all the material before it. A neat notebook is an excellent source for reviewing old material. It is wise to not throw away old assignments.
3. If you wish to stay after school, or schedule a time to see me for extra help, see me after class or contact me via email. I'd be glad to work out a time to see you.
4. If you miss a class, you will be expected to make up any assignments missed. Special arrangements will be made for making up a lab. It is your responsibility to seek missed notes, homework, or other assignments when you are absent.
5. You will be writing many lab reports and other assignments in class. Lab work will always be done (in class) with a partner. When completing a report individually, be sure that the report you turn in is your original work.
6. If you are caught cheating during a test, lab, or quiz (discussions during test time, using notes during the test, or copying another paper), you and whomever you collaborated with will automatically receive a zero. You will also be written up (see school guidelines).
7. Although it's not necessary to ask before you go to the bathroom (unless it's a lab day), it is in our best interests for you to miss as little notes and disrupt your classmates minimally. Excesses will be addressed individually.
8. Assignments that are illegible will be penalized and I will ask you to rewrite the assignment.
9. This may not be English class, but your writing skills are important. Conveying a message clearly to your reader is essential. Remember that I am the reader. Excessive spelling and grammar mistakes will hurt your grade for that assignment. There is no excuse for typed assignments to contain spelling and simple grammar (e.g. capitalization) errors. You will be penalized for these mistakes.
10. Always bring your calculator, chemistry handbook, and notebook to class. You will need a scientific calculator. Graphing calculators are fine, but are not necessary. You do not need to bring your text unless asked.