

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. There are approximately twelve grades per quarter.

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

Exams

Exams will largely consist of short answer questions and problems. A great deal of the material in this course involves mathematical processes. As a result, many of the problems on your exams will require the mathematical processes learned in class. Other problems may require you to write a short essay answer. There will not be many multiple choice questions, if any at all, on exams. Exams will usually have the highest point values of all your assignments. Missed exams must be made up the day you return. You will be provided with any constants, formulas, and a periodic table when necessary. You will not often be asked to memorize a formula or constant.

Labs

Labs will be a frequent occurrence in this class. So much of what we discuss can be tested experimentally, and often is learned best that way. Most labs are informal and will not be typed or completed in a notebook. Some labs of greater depth will be typed and completed in a format described on the last page. Sometimes they will be collected at the end of the period, other times they are finished for homework. In either case, their point value will be less than exams.

Projects

Projects are a research related assignment that is designed to make you familiar with scientific material outside of your textbook. There is one major project each quarter that relates to one of the core topics of that marking period. Often it will integrate material from previous units. These projects carry a large point value, so they are an important component of your marking period grade.

Among those projects in previous years were:

1. An educated analysis on the effects of gravity on common activities (baseball, dancing) on other celestial objects.
2. A quantitative look on the effects of a falling boulder.
3. Graphing assignments for determining relationships.

Quizzes

You can expect one every four to six classes. They are never a surprise, and the topic will always be given to you in advance. Although small in point value, they are frequent, and their total value may be the equivalent of at least one exam. Like exams, missed quizzes must be made up the day you return. Over the course of the year it is common for me to begin the practice of homework quizzes or some other sort of small quiz every class as a review tool. Again, you will be provided with any constants and formulas. You will not often be asked to memorize a formula or constant.

Homework

Expect a homework assignment every class. Some will be collected and some will be gone over in class. Since completing homework is your responsibility, you should never be surprised if an assignment is collected or not.

Lateness

Only labs and certain projects can be turned in late with penalty. Regular homework cannot be turned in late, a zero is assigned if you do not have it. Labs and projects lose ten percent each day (that's 20% between each class) they are late until either a zero is reached or the assignment has been returned.

Any missing assignment in any of the above categories will automatically be entered as a zero once it has handed back to the class. At the end of the quarter, all missing assignments become zeroes. Be sure to hand in all assignments, even if they are late, a reduced grade is always better than a zero!

Bonus Projects

There are opportunities for extra credit at different times during the year. These assignments give you an extra grade that will be averaged in with your others. These assignments "have a denominator" – that is you will NOT receive extra points added onto your grade. A poorly done bonus project will not help your grade and will not be counted against it. I do this so that you will give the bonus project the bonus effort it deserves. I will always announce such an assignment but be aware that these conditions must be met:

1. It must be midquarter or later.
2. You must have NO zeroes in the grade book.

Mr. Everett
Physics 1

RULES and 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. See your safety sheet for specifics. Improper behavior and horseplay in the lab will result in your removal from lab and an assigned grade of zero.
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. It is expected you will be in your seat at the bell. Furthermore, remember that missing ten minutes of class, at any point, constitutes an absence.
4. If you miss a class, you will be expected to make up any assignments missed. These assignments will be due the next class after the absence. Special arrangements will be made for making up a lab. Missed exams and quizzes will be made up the day you return to school! If you know in advance of an absence, please let me know. We can arrange for makeup work and turning in assignments.
5. You will be writing many lab reports and other assignments in class. Lab work will always be done with a partner. Be sure that the reports you turn in are your original work. It is okay to work with your partner during a lab, but the report you turn in must be unique.
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) and forfeit any extra credit opportunity for the marking period.
7. Use the time between periods to go to your locker, bathroom, etc. Repeatedly asking for a pass during class will result in your loss of this privilege!
8. Assignments that are illegible will be penalized 10% 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. I will penalize you 10% and ask for a rewrite.
10. Always bring your calculator, chemistry handbook, and notebook to class. You will need a scientific calculator, which you may be assigned by your math teacher. Graphing calculators are fine, but you will not use them on most tests/quizzes.

Lab Reports

The format for formal lab reports is as follows:

Title: The obvious part – but be sure not to forget it!

Objective:

Also called the purpose. The reader wants to know why this is important

Equipment:

A list of all the tools and devices used in the experiment.

Procedure:

You may describe the procedure in paragraph form, or using a list. Be sure not to include any data here! If the procedure you performed was different than that given on the handout, note those changes here.

Observations/Data:

Any data (qualitative or quantitative) you gathered from the experiment is given here. It is best to use brief statements to record written observations. Measurements are best recorded in a table.

Analysis and Calculations:

Include any graphs here that are used as a means for comparing data.

Example: If you record the mass and volume of several different aluminum blocks, you may be asked to graph the relationship between mass and volume of the blocks. We will discuss the details of graphing more as the year progresses.

Statistical analyses (e.g. percent error) are also shown here.

You will also show sample calculations for every unique calculation performed. Notice that units are important in the final answer.

Example: Density = mass/volume $D = m/V$ $m = 25.0 \text{ g}$ $V = 5.00 \text{ cm}^3$

$$D = (25.0)/(5.00)$$

$$D = 5.00 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

Conclusion:

Address these questions:

What does the data analysis (graphs, charts) mean? What trends do you notice? Are there pieces of data that seem unreasonable?

This is where you make some general statements regarding how well the data gathered in your experiment did or did not correspond to what was expected. You will also describe any sources of error in your experiment. That is, why did (or did not) the data gathered in this experiment support the topic being studied. If there are questions asked in the lab handout, answer them here.

Example: As heat is added to a beaker of water, the temperature of the water increases as time progresses. The increase in temperature is not constant and that may be a result of heat lost to surroundings.

During the course of the lab, you will record any data as well as jot down observations with regards to your experiment. Although you have already described the planned procedure, it may not actually be the course of direction you follow. You will also describe what you are doing as the procedure is followed. It is important, especially in the “real world” to be able to record your information in such a way so that when you ask yourself, “Is this lab reproducible from what I have in my notes?”, the answer is “yes.”

After the lab, you will rewrite the first two parts, taking care to note two things:
Are there any changes to my materials list/procedure that need to be clarified?
How can my observations and data be organized into a meaningful table, chart, or graph?

Finally, you will complete your data analysis/calculations and conclusion.

For the most part, your lab grade is not dependent upon how close to the “correct answer” your results were. Your grade is dependent upon how well you use the data gathered in the experiment to explain what was observed. Remember, part of your conclusion asks you to identify areas which may have been detrimental to the outcome of the experiment.

You are now ready to turn in your lab report!