

AP CHEM @ COLLEGE PREP

WHAT AM I GETTING MYSELF INTO? This is a second-year chemistry course (the equivalent of a college general chemistry course) designed to expand and deepen your understanding of the wide and wonderful world of chemistry. You will be pleasantly surprised by how literate you already are in chemistry from your first high school course. The increased depth will make the material just that much more meaningful to you. While not focused specifically on the Advanced Placement chemistry test that is offered in the spring, by the conclusion of this course, you will have been exposed to all of the material covered on the test. As such, you certainly will be prepared to take the test should you decide to do so; College Prep students do very well on it every year. However, you do not have to take the A.P. test in order to take this course.

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY: As long as you are willing to use your head and put in some effort, learning chemistry – one of nature's coolest stories – can be fun, stimulating, and relatively painless. Science is everywhere, so common and familiar phenomena are frequently integrated into this course. Effective science learning is a combination of understanding the important concepts (qualitative material) and manipulating them in problem-solving situations (quantitative material). Seeing the BIG picture is of greater importance than memorizing every detail. It is my hope that this class will:

- increase your appreciation for nature as well as mankind's persistent effort to understand and respect nature;
- increase your observational and critical thinking skills;
- help you become a more cooperative worker and better scientist.

TEXT: CHEMISTRY, 9th edition, R. Chang. You will also need a graphing calculator and a composition book.

GRADING FORMAT: Based on a point system, your grade will be determined by the percentage of the total possible points that you accumulate through class participation and homework (10-15%), lab reports (30-35%), and quizzes and tests (55-60%). These percentages are approximations. For the 1st semester, the final exam will constitute 20% of your semester grade, and the semester work will constitute 80% of your semester grade.

LAB REPORTS: These should follow a reasonable format, be clearly presented, and show original thought and careful analyses. Please emphasize quality and presentation over quantity. Lab report format will be discussed more fully in class. You are requested to use a composition book (no wire spiral notebooks, please) for your lab book.

HOMEWORK: The grade evaluation for homework is based on effort rather than objective correctness. Make corrections and learn from your mistakes! At the onset of each unit, you will be given the homework assignment for that particular material. It will include both suggested text questions and topic-appropriate AP test questions from previous AP chemistry exams. Please make meaningful responses to the questions. Answers to the even-numbered text questions can be found at the end of the text, and answers to all homework questions can also be found online. Homework will be collected on the day of the test covering that material. It should be completed, however, prior to the test date so that you can ask questions. You should learn to pace yourself accordingly. Please note: you do not have to do any of the text questions for homework if you so choose. The homework you must do is completing the old AP questions on the assignment sheet.

DUE DATES: You will be held accountable for all due work during class on the due date. **Late work receives half-credit if turned-in within one week of the due date;** it will receive zero credit if turned in later than one week. If unforeseen circumstances arise, of course please see me. All missed work should be made up.

“ASSESSMENTS”

There is a major graded item (test, problem set, etc.) per unit. There is a short quiz every Friday of non-test weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS:

There will be a 1st semester final exam. There will not be a 2nd semester final exam.

Assignment sheets, old AP chemistry test question answers, and solutions to Chang's chapter-end questions are among the things that can be found at:

<http://faculty.college-prep.org/~jack>

Senior Option: In the first semester, seniors may either drop *any* one item (except the semester final exam) or drop their lowest test score (except, again, the semester final exam score). Juniors: you may be envious of the senior option.

Regarding intellectual honesty: If you are ever feeling tempted to plagiarize for whatever reason, please see me first so that we can talk about what's bothering you and/or making you feel the need to do so. Plagiarism will result in receiving zero credit and notifying your advisor as well as the academic dean, which may lead to subsequent consequences.

SMART MONKEYS: If questions arise that you can't solve, you must seek answers. If you have trouble asking questions in class, please find time to get help outside of class. I hope that you will seek help from me, the Learning Center, friends or other chem teachers. **DO NOT SIT IN AN IGNORANT STUPOR.** You are ultimately responsible for obtaining help.