Advanced Placement Chemistry

Dr. Hersh

Course Expectations

2014-2015

Welcome to AP Chemistry! We will be covering a variety of important, fundamental concepts in chemistry with particular emphasis on understanding key ideas, problem solving, and the design and execution of laboratory experiments. Chemistry is often described as the central science with overlaps with physics and biology. It can be a lot of fun and I hope you will find the course enjoyable. We have a great deal of material to cover in a fairly short period of time since the AP exam is early in May (May 4th). This course will require a serious commitment on your part; you should expect to put in about 8 hours of work per week.

To succeed in this course it is essential that you:

•minimize absences

•come to class on time and prepared to work

•*stay focused in class and take complete, detailed notes*

•*do all of the assigned reading and homework problems*

* read each chapter while we are discussing the material in class, rather than just before the test
* focus on understanding the concepts and the strategies behind the solutions to the homework problems

•review your notes regularly and ask questions when something is not clear

•prepare carefully for tests

•are conscientious in preparing for, and writing up, the labs

* labs are an integral part of the course – careful preparation for the labs and thorough write-ups will contribute greatly to your understanding

Supplies:

•A scientific (not a programmable) calculator is required for exams.

•A calculator must be brought to class on a daily basis. It is advisable to use your scientific calculator in class to become accustomed to using it.

•A bound (composition) notebook will be needed for labs.

*Please make sure you have a stapler at home so you can hand in your labs and homework assignments stapled!*

Homework:

Assignments will be posted on WebAssign about every 2 weeks and will include the assigned reading and problems from the book. Most of the homework will be submitted online (through

WebAssign); some of the homework will be written out and handed in for grading.

•Homework assignments will generally be worth around 10 points per assignment.

•Assignments on Webassign have a fixed due date and will be due at 8 AM on the due date. No late work is possible, except under special circumstances, since answers will be posted after that time. *Be sure to check the key if you get any questions wrong*.

•Homework collected in class must be handed in at the beginning of the class period on the day it is due. If you are absent the homework assignment must be handed in when you return to school. Points will be deducted for work handed in late (1 point out of 10 for every day late) and homework **will not** be accepted more than 3 days late.

\*\* I strongly recommend that you spread each homework assignment out over several nights so it is not overwhelming – this also gives you a chance to ask questions if you are having difficulty with a problem. I am happy to answer questions as long as you have attempted the problem.

Lab Write-ups

Lab write-ups will include material in your lab notebook as well as laboratory reports for many of the labs.

*Notebooks:*

•On the day of the lab you must come to class with the purpose of the lab and the procedure for the lab written out in a step-by-step format, in your lab notebook.

•Data and your observations must be entered in your lab notebook.

*Reports:*

Lab reports will be due one week after the lab is completed. The lab write-ups will generally consist of a description of the purpose of the lab and background information, the procedure, data, calculations based on the data collected, conclusions, error analysis, and answers to questions about the lab. They will be worth 20 points. For occasional labs, a shorter report will be assigned.

•See the handout on laboratory write-ups for detailed directions.

•Labs will be submitted on turnitin.com and a hard copy will also be turned in.

•Points will be deducted from labs that are turned in late.

\*If you miss a lab due to absence you must set-up a time with me to make it up.

***\*\*Homework and lab reports, including parts of assignmenst must never be copied from another student.*** *If two students’ work appears to me to be identical both of the students will receive zeroes. Do not put your friend in a difficult position by copying his/her homework!*

**Plagiarism Statement**:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting the thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as your own. Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one’s own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources. It is also unethical to permit someone else to present your work as his or her own.”

(GNS Plagiarism Statement)

*In other words: DO NOT copy all or any part of another student’s homework, laboratory write-up, or answers on an exam. In addition, you may not copy from Internet sources or from the textbook. If you copy, you have misrepresented the work you are submitting and have not benefited from the assignment.*

As described by Brandeis University:

“A student's name on any written exercise (e.g., examination, report, thesis, theme, notebook, laboratory report, computer program, etc.), or in association with an oral presentation constitutes a representation that the work is the result of that student's own thought and study, stated in the student's own words, and produced without the assistance of others, except as quotation marks, references, and footnotes accurately acknowledge the use of other sources (including sources found on the internet).”

http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/usemacadpol.html

Tests:

Tests will be given every 2-3 weeks and will consist of both multiple choice and free response questions. Tests will generally include material from one or two chapters. There will also be quizzes that will be announced in advance. A midterm will be given at the end of January, and a cumulative exam will be given shortly before the AP exam. Exams or quizzes missed due to absence must be made up within a few days after you return to school.

Extra help:

Extra help will always be available after school on our extra-help day (Thursday). I will also be available after school most other days and you can stop in or make an appointment to meet with me. In addition you can make appointments to see me during your lunch or free periods. You should come for extra help whenever you have questions about a topic or need assistance with the homework. If something is not clear, I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the day before the exam to get help.

Grading:

Tests and quizzes, homework, laboratory work and write-ups, and participation all contribute to your grade. Tests and quizzes will contribute 65%, homework and laboratory work 30%, and participation 5% to your quarter grade. The laboratory portion of the grade will be based on your work in the lab, the lab notebook, and laboratory reports.

Participation:

Each quarter 5 points are available for participation. While I realize that some students are more comfortable participating than others, some attempt at class participation will be required to earn all 5 points. Lateness, cutting, lack of effort during class and in the laboratory, and excessive talking in class will all lead to loss of points.

Lab Requirement:

There is a significant laboratory requirement for AP Chemistry. Many of the labs will be done before the AP exam but we will also continue to do labs after the exam.

AP Exam: Information about the exam can be found on the College Board web site:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_chem.html?chem>

See this for information on the course, AP exam, and careers involving chemistry.