

Chemistry A Course Description 2018-19

Welcome to room A26 and the Chemistry A course. I hope you will find this a challenging and interesting course. We will do many of the traditional classroom things like teaching and learning as well as some non-traditional things like creative use of technology, projects, and presentations. I am a big supporter of hands-on lab experiences as long as they involve learning in a safe environment.

Classroom needs:

1. A notebook, pencil and paper.
2. A folder to keep important documents, homework, labs, etc. and data sheets that we use all year long.
3. A calculator that does basic functions including numbers in scientific notation. You should be able to purchase one for under \$10.00. I do have a classroom set that must stay here in the classroom. Calculators on your phone can work BUT you cannot use your phone on a test and the functions are often different.

Special considerations:

1. **Lab:** we will start immediately in lab. The first unit focuses on lab equipment and techniques, and most importantly, SAFETY! I will ask you to sign a safety contract at the end of this unit.
2. **Lab equipment:** If you break it, you buy it. Prices will be according to what my supply company sets. Most times it is under 5 dollars. However, we do use 50 dollars pieces of glass and balances that cost hundreds of dollars.
3. **Partners:** most times I will assign partners and rotate when possible. This includes labs and group projects. IF I ever assign you to a troubling situation, simply ask and I will try my best to adjust. I do think it is a great experience to learn how to collaborate and cooperate in unfamiliar settings. It is the way it works in the real world.

Grading:

1. The grading scale is set by school policy See the web page of posters in the room. Please do not ask me to round up anything **close at the end** of the marking period or semester. The grading scale is set and I intend to stick with it.

2. **Extra credit:** Do not ask for extra credit. Spend your efforts on regular credit. From time to time, I do assign bonus points on assignments or tests, so take advantage of it when I offer bonus/extra credit points. In past years, there were many problems with students simply googling and copying extra credit puzzles, problems, etc.
3. If you simply want to pass this course with a D-, prove to me that you want to pass it by turning in ALL assignments, labs, etc. Communicate with me during the marking period regarding your grade or lack of grade.
4. Plagiarism? A big problem/concern of mine. If you cannot complete homework on your own, get help. Copying someone is a short fix.

SPECIAL POINTS TO MAKE ON PLAGIARISM:

- Being a lab partner does not mean you copy his/her work. If there is an answer that is the SAME verbally as your partner, someone is cheating! All labs are collaborative but EVERYONE does the written work/report.
- Homework? I will often substitute a short 1-2 question or problem called a “**homework quiz**” that will count for half your homework grade. If you did your homework, you will do fine on these **homework**, aka, pop quizzes.
- Tests: NO PHONES! Be careful, often tests are scrambled to alleviate these concerns.

Thank you,

Mr. Waitrovich
Go Mountaineers!!!