

# Chemistry 105aL Summer 2013

<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~chem105a>

	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Lab Coordinator</u>	<u>Course Coordinator</u>
	Dr. Jessica Parr	Dr. Rebecca Broyer	Dr. Catherine Skibo	All questions about course admin are handled via electronic office hours
Office/ phone	SGM 304	SGM 305	SGM 223a (213)740-8265	Paperwork may be brought to the receptionist in SGM 418
e-mail	<a href="mailto:parr@usc.edu">parr@usc.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:rbroyer@usc.edu">rbroyer@usc.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:skibo@usc.edu">skibo@usc.edu</a>	Coord105@chemmail.usc.edu
Office hours	whenever door is open	Tu: 2:45pm-4:15pm Th: 11:30am-12:30pm	whenever door is open	By appt

**Web Questions:** Send an e-mail to Dr. Broyer or Dr. Parr.

**Lectures:** 12:30-2:45 Tu-F in SGM 124.

**Textbooks:** *Chemistry: A Molecular Approach* (3rd edition) by Tro (required).  
*Laboratory Manual* by USC General Chemistry Program (required, purchase for \$20 on the second floor of the USC bookstore, bring to Lab Orientation)  
*Math Survival Guide* by Appling (optional, suggested)

**Calculator:** **Required for examinations.** Calculators may not be programmable. Programmable calculators are ***not*** allowed on exams. Make sure your calculator has a ***log*** key.

<b>Grading:</b>	Homework	12 @ 10 points	120 points
	One-hour exams	4 @ 100 points	400 points
	Laboratory	1 @ 260 points	260 points
	Final Exam	<u>1 @ 200 points</u>	<u>200 points</u>
	Total:		980 points

**All labs must be performed this term and all reports submitted to receive a passing grade. Any student earning less than 50% of the course points (<490) will fail the course.**

**Midterm grade** An approximate letter grade will be assigned after the second exam to give you an idea of your status in the course. The letter grade you receive at mid-term is no guarantee of your final grade. Final grades will be assigned using guidelines established in previous semesters, but there is no strict grading curve.

**Exams:** There will be four 1-hour exams given Mondays at 1pm in SGM 124. The material covered on each exam will be announced in lectures prior to that exam. Bring your picture ID. Exams should be written in non-erasable ink (no pencil). The one-hour time period will be strictly enforced. **No one will be allowed to enter the exam room late or to leave early.** Graded exams will be returned to you by your T.A. during your scheduled lab. If you find a substantial grading error, please follow the procedure on regrading outlined at the end of the syllabus. The exams are given only at the scheduled time. **There are no makeup exams. You cannot take the exam at any other time.**

**Final Exam:** A comprehensive two-hour final exam will be given **12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2014.** This is the *only* time during which the final exam may be taken. The final will not be given to you earlier or later. There are no make-ups. Unexcused absences on the final exam do not qualify for a grade of incomplete. **If you cannot take the final during this designated time, you should not take this course.**

**Absences:** **No makeup exams will be given.** Absences will be excused based on official University policy (verifiable illness or necessity). You cannot miss more than one exam. Speak with Dr. Broyer or Dr. Parr in the case of illness. In the case of non-illness necessity, bring written verification to Dr. Broyer or Dr. Parr prior to the absence. All excuses will be verified. Students with excused absences will be given special consideration at the end of the semester. All *unexcused* absences will result in a score of zero for that exam. For lab absences, email Dr. Skibo as soon as possible.

- Internet:** All reserved materials and homework assignments for this semester will be made available via the class web page. This will be the central source for all class information. **Make sure to check the content of the web page frequently.** Point to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~chem105a> to access it. You may reach the instructors and lab/course coordinators on the Internet by e-mail.
- Assignments:** Chapters 1-12 will be covered this semester. You are responsible for any announcements made in lecture and all material presented, whether or not it is in the textbook, and whether or not you are in class.
- Homework:** Homework sets will be handed out during lecture. The problems will support the material of that lecture. They will be collected and graded. Extra problems will be posted online for you to practice.
- Laboratory:** The **mandatory lab orientation** lecture will be held after lecture on Wednesday, May 28. The time and location of the lab orientation will be announced in lecture. Laboratory Manuals are available for purchase on the second floor of the USC bookstore.
- Safety glasses and a 100% cotton lab coat are required by every person in the lab at all times.** All persons in the lab are required to wear long pants, socks and covered/closed-toe shoes.
- Be properly dressed and bring with you to lab:**
- Safety glasses, duplicate page laboratory notebook, Laboratory Manual, 100% cotton lab coat (all available at USC Bookstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- Lab Exam:** There will be one cumulative lab practical exam on Wednesday, June 25. The written component typically cover the procedure, safety issues, relevant chemical formulas and chemical equations, observations, calculations and data analysis (bring a calculator). The practical component will be a short experiment.
- Old exams:** Some old exams will be posted for inspection on the class web page. Go to the Chem 105a home page, click on the "grades" button, and then the links to "Exam 1 key," etc. You will need appropriate software (e.g., Adobe Acrobat) to view these. Please bear in mind that these old exams are only meant as a rough guide since each exam might cover different topics from year to year (the previous textbook has chapters in different orders). Use them to test yourself after you have studied; do not rely on them to be the only thing you do to study.

## Important Dates to Remember

May 27 (Tu) First Day of Classes

May 28 (W) **Mandatory Lab Orientation Lecture**

May 30 (F) Last day to drop without a "W"

**June 2 (M) First Hour Exam**

**June 9 (M) Second Hour Exam**

June 10 (Tu) Midterm Grade Assigned

**June 16 (M) Third Hour Exam**

**June 23 (M) Fourth Hour Exam**

June 25 (W) Last day to drop with a "W"

**June 25 (W) Lab Exam**

June 26 (Th) Last Lecture

**Friday, June 27 Final Exam 12:30-2:30 p.m.**

**This is the only time during which the final exam may be taken.**

**There are no make-ups or other times.**

**If you cannot take the final during this designated time, you should not take this course.**

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **This was the most difficult Gen Ed course I have ever taken. What happened?**

This is NOT a General Ed course. It was not designed to be a General Ed course even though it does give General Ed credit. It is designed for science and engineering majors.

### **How many hours should I spend on Chemistry to know the material?**

Most students will require between 2-3 hours of home study for each hour of lecture.

**Do not get behind.** A good method is to read ahead the day before a lecture by 4 or 5 sections of the current chapter and attempt all end-of-chapter problems related to those sections before lecture. (Don't get frustrated if you cannot do all of the problems – you will learn in lecture how to solve those you got stuck on, and you will be more attentive when these types of problems are solved in class.) Review your lecture notes after class and solve the problems you missed the day before. This method will make lectures more efficient and will keep you up-to-date.

### **Do you have any suggestions that may help in problem solving? Write words that say what you are doing.**

Though there are different ways to do problems, do them the way they were done in class.

### **How should I study for an exam?**

- Carefully read the book and lecture notes to be sure that you understand the logic.
- Do the sample problems in the chapter, covering the solution so you don't see it. Work the problem completely by yourself to get the final answer. Compare with the solutions. If your answer differs from the solution, find out what you did wrong and why.
- Follow the same procedure for assigned Homework problems.
- Test yourself with web quizzes, but keep in mind that they do not represent all the types of problems you will get on the exams.
- If you don't understand something, ask!
- Practice on old exams from the Chem 105 website, remembering that chapter orders may differ from year to year.
- Attend the professor's review sessions (usually held during the quiz period of the prior week).

### **What can I expect to be asked on an exam?** The material will be similar to examples done in class and the assigned problems, but the problem might be turned around or inverted. One exam problem might require two concepts or steps.

The exams for the most part will test your understanding and not your memory. Do not memorize the solutions -- understand them. The problems on the exams will be sufficiently different from the ones assigned from the book that memorization alone will not be adequate to pass the exams.

### **I think I should have gotten more partial credit on the problem! Why didn't I?**

Many times in life you don't get partial credit! Partial credit is at the discretion of the instructor and the grader. If the grader does not understand what you did, the grader does not have to give you any points. Just having numbers written is no guarantee of points. The burden of proof is on you! If you don't know the procedure and just do a "brain dump" on the paper (resulting in lots of writing but without logical order), or if you give 2 different answers (work the problem both correctly and incorrectly without distinguishing which method you chose for your final answer), most likely you will not get partial credit.

Partial credit is usually given if you know the problem but miscalculate a number -- say you miscalculate the molecular mass, which you need, but you have the proper procedure to solve the problems. We insist that the graders are consistent so everyone is treated the same. I give the grader guidelines but the grader must make the call on how well a given answer satisfies the question.

### **I am used to doing problems in pencil, so I get nervous when I have to write my exams in pen. What can I do?** Do your homework in pen so that you get used to working your problems without being able to erase them. (Erasable pens are not allowed on exams either.) Exams written in pencil will be graded at the discretion of the course professor but will NOT be considered for regrading.

### **My score on every exam was above the average. When you gave us the letter grade in class for each exam score I thought I had a B, but I got a C+ for the course. What happened?**

The final letter grade takes into consideration web quizzes, attendance, and the laboratory scores in addition to exams. The grade breaks given in class indicate only approximate exam grade ranges (without pluses and minuses) and are intended only to give you a rough idea where you stand. For both reasons, these approximations can be too lenient or too severe. You want to be well above a grade break given for

The class average is a C/C+. Probably your scores were only slightly above the class average. To earn a B or B-, the scores must be more than just slightly above the class average.

**With a great deal of effort on my part, I was able to increase my exam grade from a C to an A and yet I received only a B as the overall grade. I heard that scores that show improvement count more than those that remain constant. Why wasn't my improvement taken into consideration?**

Your improvement was taken into consideration. That is why you received a grade of B and not C. However you were just too far away from an A and you may not have done A work on the final.

**I just remembered that I had a crisis [my dog died] the morning of exam #2 and I didn't do so well on that exam. I think it unfairly affected my performance and caused me not to get an A in the course. Can I get this exam dropped and have my total score recalculated?**

All special circumstances (personal, religious, and medical) should have already been brought to the attention of the course professor at the time of their occurrence by the affected student and were considered at the time of overall course grade assignment. There is a statute of limitations on any changes.

**If I have a low grade, can I take a make up exam or do special assignments?**

NO! There are no make up exams and no special work. All you can do is to do better next time.

**What happens if I miss an exam?**

If you miss one exam and you have a written excuse (verified, of course), we will put a score in that place by using an approved formula. There are no make up exams. You cannot miss more than one exam.

## POLICY ON REGRADING OF EXAMS

**Reasons for submitting an exam for regrading:**

1. Addition error yielding incorrect total score.
2. Lack of inclusion of score from one of the problems graded.
3. Correct answer marked incorrect.

**How to submit an exam for regrading consideration:**

1. Print a cover sheet for your exam from the Exams page of the class website.
2. Complete the cover sheet, stating clearly why you are submitting your paper for regrading considerations. Be sure to sign the form where indicated, acknowledging that you have not written on nor altered the exam in any way. Your exam will not be regraded unless the cover sheet is signed.

**Important: Please do not jeopardize your integrity by being tempted to change an answer after your exam has been graded. We periodically photocopy complete sets of exams. If you submit an altered exam for regrading, you will receive an "F" for the entire course and you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for an academic integrity violation.**

2. Give the exam with the cover sheet attached to Dr. Broyer or Dr. Parr after lecture. **Do not submit it to your T.A.**
4. The deadline for submitting your exam paper for regrading consideration is one day after the day of the exam:

<b>Chem 105a</b>		
<b>Exam #</b>	<b>Exam Date</b>	<b>Regrade Deadline: 1 day after exam</b>
1	June 2	<b>June 3</b>
2	June 9	<b>June 10</b>
3	June 16	<b>June 17</b>
4	June 23	<b>June 24</b>