Chemistry 105aL Summer 2016

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

	Lecturer	**Lab Coordinator**	**Course Coordinator**
	Dr. Jessica Parr	Dr. Catherine Skibo	All questions about course admin are handled via electronic office hours.
Office/ phone	SGM 214	SGM 103 (213)740-8265	Paperwork for Course Coordinator's mailbox may be brought to receptionist in SGM 418.
e-mail	parr@usc.edu	skibo@usc.edu	Coord105@chemmail.usc.edu
Office hours	Tu, 2 – 4 pm W, Th after class until noon and 2 – 4 pm	whenever door is open	All questions about course admin are handled via electronic office hours.

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

Lectures: 9-11:20 M-Th in GFS 118. Lecture will be held on Friday June 3 to replace Monday May 30.

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.

Grading:

Homework	12 @ 10 points	120 points
One-hour exams	4 @ 100 points	400 points
Laboratory	1 @ 260 points	260 points
Final Exam	1 @ 200 points	200 points
	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 noon in GFS 118. 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 **9-11 a.m. Thursday, June 30th 2016.** 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. Parr in the case of illness. In the case of non-illness necessity, bring written verification to 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, see Dr. Skibo.

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, June 1. The time and date 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)

Lab Exam: There will be one cumulative lab practical exam on Tuesday June 28. 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 31 (Tu)	First Day of Classes
May 31 (Tu)	Mandatory Lab Orientation Lecture
June 3 (F)	Lecture to Replace May 30 lecture
June 3 (F)	Last day to drop without a “W” and get tuition refund
June 6 (M)	**First Hour Exam**
June 10 (F)	Last day to drop without a “W” and not get tuition refund
June 13 (M)	**Second Hour Exam**
June 14 (Tu)	Midterm Grade Assigned
June 20 (M)	**Third Hour Exam**
June 23 (Th)	Last day to drop with a "W"
June 27 (M)	**Fourth Hour Exam**
June 28 (Tu)	**Lab Exam**
June 29 (W)	Last Lecture

Thursday, June 30 Final Exam 9-11 a.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-do-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?

a) Carefully read the book and lecture notes to be sure that you understand the logic.
b) 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.
c) Follow the same procedure for assigned Homework problems.
d) 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.
e) If you don't understand something, ask!
f) Practice on old exams from the Chem 105 website, remembering that chapter orders may differ from year to year.
g) 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 plusses 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 an individual exam to ensure that grade in the course.

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. <u>You cannot miss more than one exam</u>.

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. Parr after lecture. **Do not submit it to your T.A.**
4. The <u>deadline</u> for submitting your exam paper for regrading consideration is <u>two days after the day of the exam</u>:

	Chem 105a	
Exam #	**Exam Date**	**Regrade Deadline: 2 days after exam**
1	June 6	**June 8**
2	June 13	**June 15**
3	June 20	**June 22**
4	June 27	**June 29**

May 105a

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 **Memorial Day** **No Classes**	31 Welcome and Chapter 1				

June 105a

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Chapter 2 Ch 1 HW due	2 Chapter 3 Ch 2 HW due	3 Chapter 3	4
5	6 Chapter 4 Ch 3 HW due **Exam 1**	7 Chapter 4	8 Chapter 5 Ch 4 HW due	9 Chapter 5	10	11
12	13 Chapter 6 Ch 5 HW due **Exam 2**	14 Chapter 6	15 Chapter 7 Ch 6 HW due	16 Chapter 8 Ch 7 HW due	17	18
19	20 Chapter 9 Ch 8 HW due **Exam 3**	21 Chapter 9	22 Chapter 10 Ch 9 HW due	23 Chapter 10	24	25
26	27 Chapter 11 Ch 10 HW due **Exam 4**	28 Chapter 12 Ch 11 HW due	29 Review Ch 12 HW due	30 Final Exam		