

Text:

Principles of General Chemistry 2nd edition by Silberberg

Course:

Honors Chemistry is an introductory chemistry course taught at a college level. Students successfully completing Honors Chemistry will receive a weighted credit. In order to receive this credit, the UC system has required that the course have prerequisites, a common syllabus and a common final exam. This syllabus was written with input from college and high school instructors.

This course meets the chemistry graduation requirement for San Diego City Schools and will address the Next Generation Science Standards for Chemistry <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngsstandards.asp>
Major areas include: atomic structure, using the periodic table, bonding, chemical quantities, solutions (oxidation-reduction, acid-base), kinetics, equilibrium, plate tectonics and climate change. Learning will take place through hands-on activities, labs, classroom discussions, demonstrations, problem solving, collaborative assignments, reading the text, lecture, and homework.

Student Expectations:

Attendance is imperative. The quick pace and group dynamic make absences very difficult to make up. Small group and whole class discussions will be integral to student understanding. Students are expected to participate fully in all classroom activities and should plan on spending approximately two hours per week out of class on this course. This includes studying, writing-up labs, homework, reviewing notes, etc.

Prerequisites: A /B in previous science course, A /B in Integrated 1, concurrent enrollment in Integrated 2 or higher recommended.

Assessment:

Students will be formally assessed during and after each unit and at the end of each semester. Students will also have the opportunity to express their understanding on exit slips, laboratory reports and quizzes. Every assignment is awarded a certain number of points. The points are split into weighted categories with 65% assessment (including final exams) and 35% classwork and homework. A final exam will be given each semester, with the second semester exam being comprehensive.

89.5% of total points weighted earns an A

79.5% - 89.4% a B

69.5% - 79.4% a C

69.4% - below an F

A small portion of the final grade may be based on class participation, quality of work and academic growth.

Citizenship:

Students who participate, follow safety rules, come to class on time and do not disrupt class are Satisfactory. In order to be considered Good or Excellent, a student needs to have a positive impact on the class by actively participating, assisting others, volunteering, having stellar attendance and generally going above and beyond. Cell phones are prohibited in class and usage will result in lowered citizenship in addition to the school policy. The school-wide effect of tardies and trancies on citizenship is as follows:

1 tardy	Teacher conference with student
2 tardies	Teacher counsels student and contacts parent, highest is S in citizenship
3 tardies	N in citizenship and teacher contacts parent, assigns classroom detention
4 tardies	U in citizenship, referral to counselor who contacts home and requests parent assistance

5 tardies U in citizenship, parent conference scheduled to discuss possible interventions
6 tardies U in citizenship, referral to vice principal for disciplinary action
12 or more accumulated tardies during the semester will result in a U for the semester.

Each unexcused absence (U on the absence list) will result in the lowering of the student's citizenship one grade per grading period.

After three unexcused absences per grading period, a referral to the counselor will be made

After four unexcused absences per grading period a referral to the V.P. will be made.

One (1) truancy during a six-week period will result in an "N".

More than one truancy from class during a six-week period will result in a "U".

Note that semester citizenship grades are calculated by averaging the three 6-week citizenship grades.

Classroom Policies:

This class requires participation. Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work when the bell rings. If a student is absent, it is his/her job to check the website and/or speak to the teacher for missing assignments and turn in work that was due on the date of absence.

Assignments missed due to excused absences must be made up as soon as is feasible. If a student develops a pattern of absences on formal assessment days he/she may not be able to earn an A on made-up assessments. An absence the day before a test does **not** excuse the student from taking the test. The lowest test grade will be dropped at the end of each semester and few re-takes are available for poor grades.

Homework may be assigned and reviewed Monday through Thursday, with only some assignments collected or graded. Students are also expected to review class information every day.

In order to be successful in this course, students should have the following supplies: 3-ring binder with paper, pencils, pens and a scientific calculator. If a student is unable to obtain these supplies for some reason, he/she should talk to the teacher immediately.

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest academic integrity. It is a disservice to everyone when a student cheats. Any student participating in the following will be considered in violation of the academic honesty policy as outlined in the student handbook:

- Cheating on tests or assignments, which includes giving answers to other students as well as taking them.
- Plagiarism – copying of any sort.
- Theft or alteration of classroom materials

Consequences for violating this policy may include a zero on the assignment, a U in citizenship for the six weeks and an F/U in the course for the semester. To avoid any impression of impropriety, students will NOT be allowed to use a graphing calculator on any exam unless the RAM has been cleared.

Communication:

If I have concerns about a student's progress or behavior, I will first counsel with the student. If after talking with the student, the situation has not resolved itself I will contact parents. If the situation continues I will contact the counselor and perhaps have a conference to try and clear up the issue.

I am always available via e-mail to discuss grades, citizenship or content with parents and students at mquessenberry@sandi.net. This is the best way to communicate with me. I am available during lunch for tutoring or talking Tue-Thur. I will have before or after-school tutoring as needed. I can also be reached by phone at (858) 475-3040 x149. I will return messages within 24 hours of receipt. I have all assignments listed at <http://mrsq.net> and students and parents can check grades on Power School.