Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jim Owens
Office: 130-A Center for Sciences
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E-mail: James.Owens@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:30 pm, TR 1:00-2:00 pm, Friday 11:00-12:00 pm or appointment

Course Description: General Chemistry is the foundation course in chemistry for all science majors. This course will provide a basic understanding of chemical concepts such as nomenclature, periodic properties, structure, bonding, and stoichiometric relationships. *This is a Learning Community section and includes sections 714, 716, and 856, Groups 6S, 7S, and 5W, respectively.

Student Learning Outcomes: The overall objective is for the student to master basic chemistry concepts such as:

- Atomic structure
- Chemical bonding
- Periodic behavior of elements
- Stoichiometric calculations

The secondary objectives of this course are to increase the student’s knowledge of involvement of chemistry in everyday life, prepare the student for organic and upper level chemistry courses, and involve the student in critical thinking exercises through course assignments.


CONNECT Student Section Code (comes with new textbook or can be purchased separately), required.

Course Evaluation: The average of 4 exam grades (including the final), homework (in CONNECT), several pop quizzes, and lab will determine the course grade. There are three 100-point exams covering 2-3 chapters. The final exam will be comprehensive and will include topics after the third exam. Final letter grades for the lecture course will be assigned as follows: A: 90%, B: 80%, C: 70%, D: 60%, F: < 60%. Additional points are available by doing LearnSmart assignments (see below). Final course points may be curved upward.
Student Responsibility: It is the student’s responsibility to read and be aware of the contents of this syllabus and the course website on Blackboard. Announcements and changes are communicated in the classroom, Blackboard, and/or emails.

Supplies: Calculator (Required).

Course Grade:
- 3 Exams: 300 points
- LearnSmart: up to 5 extra points each exam
- Final Exam: 100 points
- Homework: 120 points
- Pop Quizzes: 40 points
- Learning Community Seminar: 40 points
- Lab: 200 points
- Total Points: 800 points

Make-up Exams: There will be no make-up exams for this class. If you miss one lecture exam, your final exam grade will be counted twice to replace the missed exam. If you miss more than one exam, you will receive a zero for the second missed exam. Certain university-related circumstances may warrant a makeup exam with prior notification, documentation, and arrangements. Do not show up late to an exam; no student will be admitted to the exam after the first exam-taker has left.

Tutoring and Test-Taking Strategies: To be successful in this course, and most others, you must develop good note-taking skills, organization skills, study habits, and test-taking strategies from the very beginning. Your instructor, seminar leaders and TA’s are always available for help, but don’t wait until it’s too late! It is important that you are aware that the Center for Academic Student Achievement provides free tutoring, test-taking strategies, and extra help. Take advantage of this service! Should you have test anxiety, stress problems, or need help with study skills, the University Counseling Center (Driftwood Building: 825-2703) provides a free service.

Students with Disabilities: Disability Services is located in Corpus Christi Hall 116 (825-5816). Should you need special consideration for exams and/or class activities (special microphones, additional time for exams, enlarged exams, etc.), please contact this office. The university will provide assistance as needed, but you must contact Disability Services to make arrangements. The instructor cannot make modifications without their involvement. Should you have mobility problems, please notify the instructor and TA so that they may seek assistance for you in the case of fire drills or emergencies.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services.

If you are a returning veteran (thank you for your service) and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**Class Standards:** The student is expected to be on time and attend every class. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed information from a classmate. Missed information includes not only lecture notes, but also any possible information regarding syllabus changes. The student is expected to arrive on time prepared to take notes or take exam with appropriate supplies. **Before you enter the lecture hall turn OFF your cell phone!** **Electronic interruptions will NOT be tolerated!** **Laptops are to be used only for lecture material.** Use of laptops for non class items will not be permitted. Minimize leaving class early; it is very disruptive especially since many classrooms have only “front doors”.

**Classroom Behavior:** All students are expected to follow proper classroom behavior and respect other students and the instructor. Behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to learn may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction. The student may be asked to leave the class for that day.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or exam will result in an “F” for the course, but may include more severe punishments.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350, phone 361 825-5777.

**Lecture Schedule:** The schedule below is a preliminary outline of the semester. It is your responsibility to keep up with changes to this schedule. The reading and problem assignments that will be assigned in class should be completed before the next class meeting. Failure to stay current on reading and problem assignments will greatly affect your ability to keep up during lecture and, therefore, may have an affect on your grade in this course.
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- Exam Schedule: **1 (Thur 9/26), 2 (Thur 10/24), 3 (Thur 11/21).**

- Final Exam Schedule: Thursday December 12, 2013 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. The final is comprehensive (covers all chapters studied).

In choosing to take this course, you are agreeing to abide by the course rules, regulations, and standards. This includes agreeing to be respectful to your instructors and fellow students. Conduct that is disruptive or disrespectful will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the class. Should you have concerns or questions, you are to discuss them with the instructor as soon as possible. However, you are bound by these rules, regulations, and standards from the first day of the class throughout the duration of the course.

**Use of Electronic Devices during Exam:** Any use of an electronic device (palm pilot, Cell Phone, MP3 player, CD player, computer …) during an exam is strictly prohibited. Any use of such a device will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam and will result in a 0 on the exam although more severe actions may be considered. Calculators may be allowed on exams when needed, but only for mathematical operations. The use of programmable calculators to store or retrieve information during an exam will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam. Also, if a calculator is discovered to have saved programs or information that could be used as an unfair advantage on the exam, this will be considered an attempt to cheat on the exam. Programs or operators that aid in mathematical operations such as a quadratic equation calculator may be used.

**Learning Community Seminar:** Participation in Learning Community is mandatory. Your seminar instructor will provide further information on the requirements.
**Assigned Homework:** Homework assignments will be assigned in Connect (online homework system). The assigned homework contains the minimum suggested amount of problems that you should work during the semester. The more problems you work, the more comfortable you will be with the subject. **DO NOT GET BEHIND.** Homework sets are due at 11:45 pm on the day assigned in Connect. If a homework assignment is missed, it will count as a zero. At the end of the semester, the two lowest sets will be dropped. The final homework average will contribute 120 points to the total grade for the class. Please keep up with announcements and assignment dates. There will be no make-up’s. There will be 11 problem sets (one for each chapter). You will have 5 attempts each problem and 3 attempts for each homework set.

**LearnSmart:** LearnSmart is an interactive tool available in Connect. These study modules are for each chapter. They will help you master the fundamentals for terminology, concepts, and principles. The modules can help better prepare you for the chapter material and improve your overall grade. LearnSmart modules are assigned just like homework. There are due dates for each chapter that are covered in class. An average grade of 80% or better for each of the chapters for an exam will result in 5 extra points added to the exam grade. For example, Exam 1 is over Chapters 1 & 2. An average of 80% for the Learning Modules for these 2 chapters will earn you 5 points on Exam 1. No points will be awarded for averages less than 80%.

**Quizzes:** Up to 7 pop quizzes will be given on unannounced dates. Quizzes will count 40 points of the total final grade. Approximately 4-7 questions will be on each quiz. **No makeup quizzes!** One or two of the lowest scored quizzes will be dropped. Quizzes may cover past material or early sections of the next chapter to be covered.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Grade Appeal Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.