

Chemistry 120: Introduction to Chemistry
Rio Hondo College, Spring 2010
Instructor: Mr. Matt Koutroulis

Electronic Mail: mkoutroulis@riohondo.edu

Course Web Page: http://moodle.rio2.com

Office Hours: Please see web site for times. My office is Room S320B.

Textbooks: *An Introduction to Chemistry (Atoms First version)* by Mark Bishop

Laboratory Textbook and Materials: Custom Laboratory Manual: *Foundations of Chemistry in the Laboratory for Rio Hondo College*, by Hein, Best, et. al.; *Supplemental Lab Packet*; Lecture Notes; Safety Goggles; a scientific calculator, a crucible with cover

Course Description: This course is a one-semester lab science designed for students intending to major in science or engineering. The primary purpose of the course is to prepare students to enter General Chemistry (Chem 130 and 131). It also fulfills the physical science requirement for general education. This course introduces the fundamental principles of general chemistry, with emphasis on chemical nomenclature and mathematical/quantitative applications.

Prerequisite: Math 70 (Intermediate Algebra) or equivalent

Grading: Grades are based on the following items:

Four exams worth 100 points each (400 points total)

A Final Examination worth approximately 180 points

Online quizzes and/or homework (in the range of 40-80 points)

Lab reports and participation (in the range of 140-150 points for reports, 10 points for participation)

At my discretion, additional assignments may be given and others may be deleted. It is possible that one fewer exam will be given than indicated here. I will use the following grading scale to determine final grades:

To earn an...	Lowest Acceptable TOTAL %	Lowest Acceptable Total Exam %	Lowest Acceptable Total Lab %
A	88	87	85
B	79	78	75
C	67	67	65
D	58	55	55
F	0	0	0

The final grade assigned is the one for which you meet all of the required standards. For example, suppose you earned 89% of all total points, including a total of 88% of exam points and 90% of lab points. You would receive an A in the class since all three requirements are met. However, if you had earned the same percentage (89%) of total points, including a total of 85% of exam points and 96% of lab points you would receive a B in the class since your overall exam score is too low to qualify for an A, which requires you earn at least 87% of all exam points. I may, at my option, adjust the requirements

for a grade to a *lower* percentage, based on review of the performance of the entire class at the end of the semester (curving). However, these requirements will not be adjusted to higher percentages.

Examinations: Four examinations are scheduled throughout the semester, covering approximately three to four chapters each. Please note that no exam scores will be dropped. It is rarely possible to make-up a missed test. Alternative arrangements *may* be made in cases where outstanding circumstances are present (severe illness, etc.), but must be approved by me in advance. Contact me immediately if you should miss a test, preferably by email. Students are not allowed to use any kind of English-translation aids, electronic or otherwise, during tests, examinations, or quizzes. Cellular and/or smart phones (iPods, Blackberrys, etc.) may not be used in lieu of a calculator.

Final Examination: The final examination will be given on Wednesday, May 26 from 4:45-6:45pm. *Note that, if possible, I will change the exam start time to 5:25-7:25 pm; I will announce the change later in the semester.* A Scantron 882 form is required. The exam will be comprehensive. You must take the final examination at this time; alternative arrangements will only be made in cases of serious injury to yourself or death in the immediate family. No other excuses will be accepted, including vacation travel, family commitments, etc. If you foresee any problems of this nature then please speak with me in the first week of the class.

Attendance: Attendance may be taken for any lecture, laboratory, and discussion session. Students missing multiple lectures without documented excuses (such as a doctor's note) *may* be dropped from the class. I often drop students who miss an exam and do not contact me immediately after the fact. Students failing to complete more than two laboratory reports may be dropped from the class or given a failing grade if past the drop deadline. It is always the student's responsibility to drop themselves from the course; students who do not attend the course but remain enrolled will be given a grade of F.

Homework: A list of homework problems from the textbook will be provided on the course web site. I will collect portions of these assignments for a grade. Experience shows that students who diligently complete the homework assignments are much more likely to succeed in this course than those who do not.

Laboratory: The laboratory sections will be taught by Mr. Corey Schultz this semester (cschultz@rio.hondo.edu). Your laboratory grade will include scores on multiple lab reports/exercises, usually worth ten points each. The report is usually due at the end of the lab period in which the experiment is performed, although sometimes you will be given until the following class session. Lab reports turned in late will receive half-credit; after this time they are not accepted. Instructors are sometimes willing to give students more time to complete these reports (without penalty); please speak with your instructor if you should need more time. Safety rules will be strongly enforced in this class. Students who continue to demonstrate negligent behavior (not wearing appropriately safe equipment/attire, etc.) towards themselves or others will be warned and eventually suspended from the class, with further incidents leading to expulsion with a "W" or "F"(if past the drop deadline). Participation points from students who arrive late to lab or violate the safety rules or do not clean up their benchtop after completing an experiment. Students arriving more than five minutes after the lab begins may not be allowed to begin the experiment at your instructor's discretion.

Academic Honesty: Cheating in Chemistry 120 will result in dire consequences. Any student found copying another's work on an assignment will receive no credit for that assignment. The same penalty applies for a student who allows another to cheat off of them. If this should happen more than once, the student will receive a grade of "F" in the class and the student will be referred to the division dean for discipline. Any student who cheats on an examination will receive a zero on that exam and will be referred to the division dean.

Student Learning Outcomes: Throughout the semester, your performance on multiple student learning outcomes will be evaluated. In particular the outcomes which will be assessed this semester include—but are not necessarily limited to—the following:

- Students will accurately measure various chemical quantities and report their measurements with correct units and the correct number of significant digits.
To be assessed by performance on laboratory activities and the first examination.
- Students will assign correct names to common inorganic compounds using IUPAC nomenclature. *To be assessed by a series of questions on the second examination.*
- Students will determine the limiting reagent in a given reaction system and accurately calculate the amount of product which should theoretically be produced. *To be assessed by a pair of questions on the third and/or fourth examination.*

Assessment of these outcomes may be re-evaluated using embedded questions on the final examination at the instructor's discretion.

Students with Disabilities Statement: Any student with a disability who believes that he/she may need accommodations in this class is encouraged to contact the Disabled Students Program and Services office as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. The office is located in room S205 and the telephone number is (562) 908-3420.

Important Dates for the Current Semester:

Last Day to Add Courses: Tuesday Feb. 9

Under no circumstances will students be allowed to add the course after this date.

Last Day to Drop without a “W” grade: Friday Mar. 5

Last Day to Drop with a “W” grade: Friday Apr. 30



Best Wishes for a Successful Semester!