

AP CHEMISTRY 2009-2010

Mrs. Avram

To the student and parents:

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be taken after the completion of a first course in high school chemistry and students are expected to review, on their own, material covered in this course. The AP Chemistry is very demanding, both in time and effort required and follows established guidelines for an equivalent freshman college chemistry course. You will need to be dedicated and work very hard if you are to be successful. Students who are heavily involved in after school activities and/or jobs will have to learn to budget their time very carefully.

One of the most obvious benefits to this course is that when you take and pass the national AP Chemistry Exam given in May you will receive college credit for the course when you enroll at most universities in the United States. Taking the test, which is not mandatory for EHS, costs about \$85.00, but may save you both time and money in college. AP Chemistry looks great on your transcript or on a letter of recommendation. It is a way of distinguishing yourself in high school. As difficult as AP Chemistry is, you will find that it will never be as easy to learn Freshman Chemistry as it is now, for several reasons: high school classes are generally much smaller than college classes, most college professors concentrate on their research and don't regard teaching Freshman Chemistry as a priority; at times Freshman Chemistry is used to "weed out" students.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

AP Chemistry is not all about memorization: however, having a few items memorized (symbols of ions and their charges, oxidation numbers, solubility rules, rules for naming compounds) is essential for success in learning the concepts covered in the course. Do not wait until the night before school begins. **I WANT YOU TO SUCCEED!**

1. Cover the textbook. Read and learn the first 3 chapters.
2. Complete the problems listed on each of the objective sheets attached.
3. Complete the practice tests in each of the 3 chapter handouts. These problems should be neatly worked with labels and will be graded for accuracy and organization. No late papers will be accepted!!!
4. Memorize the symbols and charges of the ions for a quiz on the 2nd day of classes
5. There will be a one day (or less) review of each of these chapters followed by a test the first week back to school. From then on, we will cover approximately a chapter a week.

OBJECTIVES

"The college course in general chemistry differs qualitatively from the usual first secondary school course in chemistry with respect to the kind of textbook used, the topics covered, the emphasis on chemical calculations and the mathematical formulation of principles, and the kind of laboratory work done by students. Quantitative differences appear in the number of topics treated, the time spent on the course by students, and the nature of experiments done in the laboratory." The above view of The College Board places the burden on the high school teacher to supply each student with quality college level material within the framework of the public school system. It is my opinion that this can be done, not only successfully, but offers the student a smaller, more individualized level of instruction than can be offered at many large institutions.

The student will:

1. Receive the equivalent of a first year college chemistry course.
2. Gain a depth of understanding of fundamentals of chemistry.
3. Develop a reasonable competence in dealing with chemical problems.
4. Improve his/her writing skills and sharpen problem-solving techniques.
5. Expand his/her awareness of chemistry beyond the first course, using a sophisticated, readable text, more rigorous mathematics, and gaining a greater depth and breadth of chemical subject matter and laboratory skills.
6. Recognize the involvement of science and scientific reasoning in social problems and human values.

HOMEWORK

Homework is not always graded but you will have a difficult time passing the class if you do not complete it daily. Homework will consist of many problem sets. Students are expected to present the solutions to these problems orally on seminar day. The answers are often in the text, with no solution method. Students are required to check their answers and be ready to present the method of solving the problem.

The website at <http://members.cox.net/savram2> will be updated weekly to show: due dates for labs, problem sets, test dates and links to useful resources.

Students are expected to be prepared for each lab before they are allowed to complete it.

GRADING

Grades are determined by total points earned from tests, quizzes, labs, homework, projects, oral presentations and class participation. A general grading scale follows our school scale. D's and F's do not belong in this class!

REQUIRED DAILY

1. Textbook
2. Loose-leaf paper for notes and homework
3. Three-ringed binder for handouts, notes, etc.
4. Graphing calculator TI-83 plus or TI-84
5. Lab notebook and pre-lab preparation
6. POSITIVE ATTITUDE or good imitation of one
7. Be on time to class; don't disrupt the rest of the class, or worse yet, me!

MAKUP/LATE WORK

Work that is missed due to excused absence is due immediately on your return. If your absence is known in advance, get the work assignment ahead. College professors wouldn't wait either! NO lab makeup; get the data from your lab partner and complete the write-up for 50% credit. Missed handouts will be placed in class folder. It is your responsibility to check this folder when you return to school.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Don't fall behind.
2. Read the chapter before and after I cover it. Take good notes.
3. Get help immediately. The pace is FAST!
4. Do the problems! Practice early and often. The test is a challenge for the best.
5. Have a sense of humor.
6. Let me know if you have a problem.

EXTRA HELP

I am available after school and during my resource periods in room 248. You can leave me a message at home (860) 633-0697 or at school or e-mail me at marvasa@aol.com

Good luck!

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE
