

Course Syllabus: Chemistry 203, General Chemistry I

Section 103, CRN 1368; Lecture (S473): MWF 4:00 – 5:15

Credits: 3 **Instructor:** Dr. Lawrence Schmitz **Office:** Science 488 **Phone:** 696-2373

email: schmitz@marshall.edu **Office Hours:** 1:00 – 3:45 MW, 11:00 – 12:30 F

Required Text: The text for this course is Ball, Hill and Scott, "The Basics of General, Organic and Biological Chemistry" Flat World Knowledge, Inc. ISBN: 9781453311097. Versions of the book are available at flatworldknowledge.com and the bookstore. There are electronic and printed versions available. Any of the versions will do. You only need one version.

Required: Access to the Sapling Learning online homework system. This is available in the bookstore or online at <http://www2.saplinglearning.com>.

Required: A simple scientific calculator.

Course Policies: This course will be conducted adhering to university policies. Copies of these policies can be found at: <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>. **Attendance at exams is required.** Make up exams will only be given for university excused absences as defined in the policy. All make up exams will be given on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

Catalog Description: General Chemistry I. 3 hrs. I, S. An introduction to chemical science, its development, basic concepts and interrelationships with other sciences. Intended primarily for non-science majors and B.A. degree candidates. 3 lec.

Approximate Lecture and Exam Schedule

Tentative class schedule*

Week of	Chapters
8/24	1, 2
8/31	2, 3
9/7	3, 4, 5
9/14	5, 6
9/21	6, 7, 8
9/28	8, 9, 10
10/5	10, 11
10/12	12, 13
10/19	13, 14
10/26	14, 15
11/2	15, 16
11/9	17, 18
11/16	18, 19
11/23	break
11/30	19, review

Tentative exam schedule*

Exam	Week of	Chapters
Exam I	9/14	1-5
Exam II	10/5	6-11
Exam III	11/2	12-15
Exam IV	11/16	16-18(19)
Final Exam	12/5/15 Saturday 9:50 a.m.	1 -19

***The exam and lecture schedule may change based on the rate the class is progressing.**

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the vocabulary, concepts, and intellectual machinery of chemistry.
2. To introduce the students to various kinds of problem solving as applied in chemistry and science in general.
3. To encourage the students to develop the "habits of successful students".

Practicing to Achieve the Objectives:

In order to obtain the learning objectives, I suggest the following methods:

- a. Read the appropriate material in your textbook prior to the material being covered during lecture.
- b. Attend the lectures.
- c. Work problems to learn and test that you have mastered the material. This would include as a minimum working the problems imbedded in the chapters and doing the assigned online homework. The importance of working problems as a part of learning chemistry cannot be overstated. Additional information is provided below. Exam questions will be similar to the problems in the textbook and on the online homework.
- d. Discuss the material and seek help if necessary. I am available to you during my office hours and by appointment.

Assessing Your Success in Obtaining the Objectives:

Your success will be evaluated using online homework, four exams and a final exam. The homework will be graded on the percent you get correct; A > 90%, B 80 to 89.999%, C 70 to 79.999%, D 60 to 69.999%, and F < 60%. Exams will be scaled to the same 90, 80, 70, 60 percent grading scheme. How this will be done is described later. Your overall grade will be 10% based on homework and 90% based on exams.

Problems - Homework - Sapling Learning:

Working problems is an essential portion of the process of studying chemistry. Work all of the problems that are imbedded in the text since these are designed to allow you to test yourself on your understanding of the section(s) just before these problems.

In addition, you will be required to complete a series of online homework problems. The answers to these problems will not be made available to you until after you have completed the homework. You will be required to complete these assignments in a timely fashion. When each assignment is posted on the web, a due date will be specified. You may have unlimited attempts to work each assigned problem. You may get help working the problems. However, you must complete the assignment by the due date.

The online homework will be delivered using software called Sapling Learning. Paying for an access card available from the bookstore separately, bundled with a book or paying online is required to use the system. Here are the instructions from Sapling Learning on how to use the system.

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com> and click on your country ("US Higher Ed" or "Canada") at the top right.
- 2a. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in and skip to step 3.
- 2b. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a Sapling Learning account. Click "Create an Account", then "Create my account through Facebook". You will be prompted to log into Facebook if you aren't already. Choose a username and password, then click "Link Account". You can then skip to step 3.
- 2c. Otherwise, click "create account". Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.
3. Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and term categories) and click the link.
4. If your course requires a key code, you will be prompted to enter it. Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions.
5. Work on the Sapling Learning training materials. The activities, videos, and information pages will familiarize you with the Sapling Learning user environment and serve as tutorials for efficiently drawing molecules, stereochemistry, etc. within the Sapling Learning answer modules. These training materials are already accessible in your Sapling Learning course.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.

Exam Grading Policies

Lawrence R. Schmitz

There will be four exams and a final in this course. You may earn points towards your grade on these exams. The final exam will be counted as two hour exams and your lowest grade will be dropped in determining your exam average. Your average score for exams will be calculated as shown below:

$$\text{Average Exam Score} = \{\text{Exam1} + \text{Exam2} + \text{Exam3} + \text{Exam4} + [2 * (\text{FinalExam})] - \text{LowestExam}\} / 5.$$

The “LowestExam” can be one of the hour exams or the final. Note that the final exam will be 1/5 (20%) of your exam grade if you do poorly on it, but 2/5 (40%) of your grade if you do well. **Attendance at exams is required. Make-up exams will only be given for university excused absences as defined in the catalog.** Any other missed an exam will be your “LowestExam”.

My exams tend to vary in degree of difficulty. This can cause problems in determining which exam is indeed your poorest. For example, suppose I give you an exam and that I determine that you need 90% correct to get an A on this exam. Assume that you get 85% correct, a B grade. Suppose that the next exam is much harder than the first. Because of this, I determine that 80% correct is an A. Further suppose that you get 82% correct on this exam, an A grade. The situation is then as shown below:

<u>Exam</u>	<u>%Correct</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1	85	B
2	82	A

Which exam should be dropped? Obviously, these exams need to be put on a common basis.

Therefore, I have developed a scaling technique to help overcome this problem. The mathematics of this technique is described later. After I apply this technique, you will receive a scaled score. Your average exam score (as described above) will be determined using the scaled scores from each exam. Your grade for the exams will be the highest grade possible based on the criteria below:

<u>Average Scaled Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
≥ 90	A
≥ 80	B
≥ 70	C
≥ 60	D
< 60	F

The Mathematics of Scaling

After you are given an exam, I will grade the exams and determine a raw score for each individual in the class. Based on my judgment of the difficulty of the exam and of what level of performance is necessary to receive a given grade, I will determine what is the minimum score necessary to receive an "A" and what score is the minimum "C". If everyone performs exceptionally well, I will be happy to draw the A line in a position such that everyone will receive an A. At the other extreme, if the performance of all individuals is very poor I will draw the lines in a way that reflects this. Your grades are, therefore, actually determined by my judgment of your performance.

In order for the scaling technique to be in agreement with the 90, 80, 70, 60 grading criteria given above, I make two boundary conditions. The lowest A must scale to a 90 and the lowest C must scale to a 70. My scaling technique is linear and as such is based on the equation for a straight line ($y = mx + b$). In this case the equation is:

$$\text{ScaledScore} = (m * \text{RawScore}) + b$$

where m and b are constants not yet determined. To determine the two scaling constants, I apply the two boundary conditions to yield the following equations:

$$90 = (m * \text{LowestA}) + b$$

$$70 = (m * \text{LowestC}) + b$$

By subtracting the second boundary equation from the first and solving for m , you will see that:

$$m = 20 / (\text{LowestA} - \text{LowestC}).$$

You can then substitute the now known value of m into the first boundary equation to obtain:

$$b = 90 - (m * \text{LowestA}).$$

At this point, your raw score and both m and b are known. Therefore, you can determine your scaled score [$\text{ScaledScore} = (m * \text{RawScore}) + b$].

When you take an exam, I will do all this math for you. When I return the exam to you, there will be both a raw score and a scaled score on the exam. **It will be very easy to determine how you did on an exam. Just look at the scaled score and remember the 90, 80, 70, 60 grading criteria.** The raw score is there so you can check to see that I added up your score correctly. I will also announce the values of the Lowest A, Lowest C, m and b , so you can check my math if you like. You should also check the grading of each problem and let me know if you have any questions or grievances.