United States Naval Academy
Chemistry Department

Course Policy Statement
SC112, Sec. 5323 and 6523, Spring 2017

1. Course Goals

1. Apply the language and fundamental principles of chemistry (atomic/molecular theory, thermodynamics, and kinetics) to explain natural phenomena and to solve problems involving chemical processes.
2. Collect and critically analyze data sets derived from scientific observations and measurements.
3. Communicate in written form the process of problem-solving and results/conclusions derived from experimental results using evidence-based reasoning.
4. Describe how chemistry is essential to issues facing society (such as energy and the environment) and Naval technology (such as explosives, nuclear power, corrosion prevention, submarine air).

2. Homework and Quizzes

Online homework assignments for each chapter will be provided through the OWL web site at http://login.cengagebrain.com. To enroll for this semester you will need the Course Key for your section, which I will send to you via email. The OWL homework will count as 10% of the course grade.

Additional practice homework is available from in-chapter and end-of-chapter problems in the text.

A quiz will be given approximately once a week, usually on Wednesday. The quiz problems will be similar to the recommended homework for that week.

3. Laboratory

Lab writeups are to be downloaded from the Chemistry Department web site at http://www.usna.edu/ChemDept/plebeChem/lab-resources.php. Students will be expected to have read the current laboratory assignment before coming to the lab. Most of the experiments have pre-lab assignments in OWL, which must be completed by the beginning of the lab period.

Safety goggles and aprons will be worn at all times in the laboratory when any experimental work is in progress, and lab stools will remain stowed at the work islands to keep the lab aisles clear. Similarly, book bags and other gear must be left in the hallway or otherwise stowed so as to keep the lab aisles clear.

Lab reports will be due in lab on the Thursday following the scheduled completion of each experiment. Late reports will be accepted until the end of class on the Monday following the due date, with a 20% penalty assessed. 50% will be deducted for lab reports submitted after this deadline.

If you must miss an upcoming laboratory period, let me know as soon as possible so that you can be scheduled to perform the experiment with another section.

4. Exams and Grades

There will be three fifty-minute "hour" exams given during the semester. These are scheduled around weeks 6, 12, and 16 of the semester. The six- and twelve-week exams will be common to the whole course and will be administered during x-period. The last exam will be specific to our section. Each hour exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. Quizzes will be worth 20 points each. Lab reports will be worth twelve points each, usually two points for the prelab and ten points for the report itself. A three-hour final exam will be given at the end of the semester, and will count as 25% of the final course grade.
or 250 points. Letter grades will be assigned using the traditional 90/80/70/60 scale (90% to 100% is an A, 80% to 90% is a B, etc.)

The distribution of "points" will be approximately as follows:

- Lab reports (13 @ 12 points) 156
- Quizzes (10 @ 20 points) 200
- Hour exams (3) 300
- Final exam 250
- OWL homework 100

Total 1006

5. Extra Instruction

The best times to find me in my office are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, during lunch any day, or after sixth period. Feel free to drop by any time, but to guarantee that I'll be available it is advisable to schedule an appointment in advance. This can be done by e-mail, or by checking with me after class.

6. Other Resources

A significant amount of information for this course will be made available on the web. You have probably already bookmarked the site http://www.usna.edu/ChemDept/plebeChem/. That is where you can find the learning objectives for each chapter, lab procedure writeups, a Naval Applications of Chemistry site, and other useful items. Specific information for my section of SC112 will be posted on my own web site at http://www.usna.edu/Users/chemistry/elert/.

The Chemistry Resource Room in Michelson 100 is staffed most hours of the day with chemistry faculty members who can assist you. I am scheduled to be in the Resource Room during fourth period on Monday.

7. General

Students are encouraged to seek help from me, from other students in the class, or from anyone else in solving homework problems, but only after giving it a good try individually. Problem-solving skills are best developed by solving problems, not by watching others do it!

Phones and portable electronic devices (except calculators) may not be used during quizzes and exams. Laptops must not be open during class unless we are doing a specific exercise that requires them. During quizzes or exams, NO text-capable calculators may be used. The issued TI-36X Pro or equivalent is acceptable.

All work which is submitted for grading must be the work of the midshipman who claims the academic credit. It is both legally and morally unacceptable to pass off the work of another person as your own. The use of unauthorized assistance on graded assignments is an honor offense. The use of gouge files of former students' laboratory reports is strictly prohibited. Note that although lab data may often be collected by two or more partners, THE LAB REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR GRADING – INCLUDING SPREADSHEETS AND GRAPHS – MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH STUDENT INDIVIDUALLY unless a group report is specifically requested.

M. L. ELERT