United States Naval Academy
Chemistry Department
Course Policy Statement

SC111 Foundations of Chemistry
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Section 5511, Fall, 2015
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Plebe Chemistry Learning Outcomes
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)

Required Materials: Text: Chemistry and Chemical Reactivity by Kotz, Treichel, Townsend, Treichel, 9th Edition. A 3-ring binder is also required for lecture notes, homework problems, lab reports, and quizzes. You must bring the text, the binder, and a calculator to each class (and to E.I.).

Homework: Electronic homework will be administered through the OWL online homework system. There is a set of OWL assignments for each chapter. Students must maintain an active OWL account as scores, due dates, and all other aspects are managed online. It is highly recommended that students also engage in “pencil and paper” end-of-chapter questions and problems from the textbook as these provide a very good approximation of the quizzes and exams.

Classroom Decorum: Arrive on time and stay for the whole period! Attendance is mandatory and will be taken by the assigned section leader at the start of each class. Midshipmen not present when class begins will be marked “absent” or “tardy” in MIDS. Midshipmen who leave the classroom early will be entered as “left early” in MIDS (even if they return to the room later). Thus, do not leave class unless absolutely necessary. Do not eat in class. Drinks in closed containers are allowed. Do not use profanity.

Important Webpages: Much of the required material for this course will be distributed over the internet. Below are some very important web addresses (URL’s) that you should bookmark in your web browser.

Urban Homepage: www.usna.edu/Users/chemistry/urban/
Plebe Chemistry Homepage: www.usna.edu/ChemDept/plebeChem/
Chemistry Dept. Homepage: http://www.usna.edu/ChemDept

Reading Assignments: The course syllabus contains a day-to-day schedule of the material we will be covering and the required reading assignment for each lesson. It will be essential for you to supplement the classroom and activities by reading the textbook and working on practice exercises in the textbook. One of your goals should be to progress toward becoming an independent learner. This will benefit you in future courses and in all your endeavors beyond USNA.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given frequently throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover lecture material and lab experiments.

Extra Instruction (EI): I highly encourage you to come to me for extra instruction. If you fall behind in this course, it will be difficult to catch up. If you have tried the homework problems and are having difficulty, come to my office and we will work the problems together. I will be in my office during regular working hours during the day and often also at night and on the weekends. My door is always open for my students and no appointment is necessary. Also, I do not make standing appointments for a given class period with a single student for the entire semester as it prevents others from accessing me during that time (many of your classmates have the same free period and would like to be able to use it for EI). So, arrange to see me as needed throughout the semester, or just stop by.

Hour Exams: These will be given on the dates indicated on the lesson assignment sheet unless otherwise
indicated. Absence from a scheduled exam for any reason other than illness or emergency leave must be cleared with the instructor prior to the exam date. Exams missed due to legitimate absence must be made up at the earliest date possible (or at the announced makeup time for common exams).

**Laboratory:** You must come to the lab with your **goggles** and a copy of the assigned **experiment handout**. Any midshipman who arrives to the lab without these will be sent back to Bancroft Hall to retrieve them, and will be marked in MIDS as tardy. To obtain the lab experiment handout, direct your web browser to the Plebe Chemistry Homepage and follow the link to “Laboratory Resources.”

Due dates will be announced for each lab experiment. For most experiments, you will turn in a typewritten one-page memorandum summarizing your results, and any assigned questions and spreadsheets. Late lab reports are due as hardcopy submitted at the start of the period of the announced due dates. Late lab reports will be penalized as follows: handing any part of the lab in any time after the start of the period of the announced due date until COB of the next business day will result in a 25% deduction, any submissions after that will receive zero credit.

**Calculator Use Policy:** During quizzes or exams, only the installed calculator functions of the TI-nspire calculator may be used. You may not use any text or programs that you have installed. Your calculator must be in “Press to Test” mode during the quiz or exam. Alternatively, on my quizzes and exams, you may use a simple non-text editing calculator.

**Midshipman Group Study Program:** This program administers group study sessions in chemistry (and many other courses). The sessions are led by midshipmen and are completely voluntary. The purpose of this program is to provide the time and space for you to work on course material with your classmates in small study groups. The MGSP sessions will also offer the opportunity for you to learn new study techniques and strategies for succeeding in Plebe Chemistry by sharing ideas with your classmates as well as learning from an upper-class midshipman who has already taken the course. I highly encourage you to take full advantage of this program! For more info, visit the MGSP webpage at [http://intranet.usna.edu/AcCenter/MGSP/](http://intranet.usna.edu/AcCenter/MGSP/)

**Honor Issues:** All work submitted for grading must be the product of the student(s) whose name(s) is(are) recorded on the material and who therefore is(are) claiming academic credit. It is legally and morally unacceptable to submit the work of another person as your own. The use of unauthorized assistance, as defined by your course instructor, on graded assignments will be considered a violation of the honor concept and will be treated as such. Examples of scenarios that can lead to the reporting of an honor offense include, but are not limited to: the use of gouge files or former students' laboratory reports, submitting an excel spreadsheet originally constructed by a classmate as your own, making use of a passage of text or a graphic found on the internet without proper citation.

In cases where an assignment involves collaboration, I will make the terms clear at the time the assignment is given. In such cases, the same grade will usually be assigned to all members of a collaborative assignment team. Thus, it is in the best interest of all members of the team that each individual member puts in his or her best effort.

**Grading Policy:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hour Examinations</td>
<td>30% (10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWL Homework</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Professor, Chemistry Department