

Honors Chemistry Course Requirements

Instructor: Dr. Colascione (rcolascione@csh.k12.ny.us)

Textbook: Modern Chemistry (*Provided upon request*)

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Philosophy of the Course:

1. Students will learn the facts, formulas, and principles **beyond** the scope of the NYS chemistry regents exam.
2. Student understanding of the **higher level** concepts, facts, formulas and principles will reinforced in theory and laboratory portion of the class.
3. Students will develop their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, not only to use in chemistry but, by extension, to use in everyday life.

Prerequisites:

To be successful in this class students must have a strong work ethic, a good attitude; be determined, honest and curious. It would also be helpful if you have a sense of humor.

Classroom Decorum

- Students should raise their hand if they have a question.
- The classroom is a lab/lecture room. Therefore **No gum chewing, or food allowed. Only bottled water is allowed at your desk.** Ice coffee and similar beverages are not allowed.
- Cell phones are collected at the beginning of each class. Students can pick them up on breaks during a double period or at the end of a single period. They are not to be used during lab class.
- A cell phone does not replace a calculator. Students can only use a non-graphing calculator in this class.
- Bathroom privileges – Students will be required to leave their cell phones in the classroom while utilizing the bathroom. Students should request to be excused. If Dr. C requests that you wait a few moments, it usually means he is in the middle of a thought you should hear. Students should avoid abusing their bathroom privileges.
- Tardiness – students frequently late to class will be referred to Dr. Browne.

How will your quarterly grade be determined?

Quarterly Grade Calculation

Quarterly grades will be determined by the fraction:

$$\frac{\text{Earned Points}}{\text{Possible Points}} \times 100$$

Keep track of all grades and save all papers that are returned to you.

Grades will be tabulated from exams, quizzes, labs, and the class participation.

Tests

Tests are given at the end of each major topic. If a student misses a test they are expected to make up the test the next morning before school. Once an exam has been reviewed with the class, absent students will take a make-up test on a date to be determined by Dr. C. The make-up test will contain the same material as the missed test. However it will not be the "same" exam. Missed tests due to an illegal absence (i.e.: cutting class) will result in a zero. Missed make-up exams will be assigned a zero. Students signing out before the end of the day when a test is scheduled are expected to inform the instructor. If not, it may be treated as a cut exam. Students missing an early morning test then signing in late will be considered a cut class. All unit exams are scored out of a possible 100 points. **Exam dates will be posted on Canvas and in class.**

Quizzes

Quizzes may or may not be announced. In general, quizzes are a very good way to prepare you for a test. Missed quizzes due to an illegal absence (i.e.: cutting class) will result in a zero. Unannounced mini-quizzes are typically worth 5-10 points. These may follow a screencast homework assignment. Announced longer quizzes are typically worth 20-40 points. This is a guideline. Dr. C reserves the right to vary this slightly as he feels necessary without notice. **Announced quizzes will be posted on Canvas and in class.** It may be as little as 1 day to 3 days before it is given. Quizzes focus on recent class topics and homework assignments. A quiz may also be in the form of a class activity that is collected.

Laboratory Work and Reports

NYS Board of Education requires that a student taking the Chemistry Regents must complete a minimum of 30 laboratory hours (1200 minutes). If a student does not have 30 hours of lab work they cannot take the Regents. The Regents exam counts as a fifth quarter grade.

Students will receive an (I) on progress reports and quarter grades if labs are incomplete for a quarter.

Laboratory Requirements

1. A lab report must be written for each lab you complete in class. The report length and content varies depending upon the lab completed. All labs are hand written. The only exception will be for students that have an IEP that allows for computer use in class.
2. Students **MUST** make up all labs missed within one week of returning to school. Failure to make up a lab will result in a zero for that and a call home. This strict policy assures that all students will meet the state requirement for the regents' examination. Students can make up labs on Mondays before or after school. After school lab make up time will end the beginning of the spring sports season.
3. Lab reports are due in class on the designated due date. For each day it is late students lose 10% of the total points assigned to that particular lab experience. Weekends and vacation days are included as days late.
4. **Lab due dates will be posted on Canvas and in class.**
5. Labs are typically worth 10-20 points. There may be a few worth 30 points.
6. Additional information will be provide as needed.
7. On the day a lab is collected, an "L" for late labs will be posted on the online grade book by the next morning. Please be aware...quizzes and tests are given priority for grading.

Lab folders must never be removed from the classroom under any circumstances

Class Participation Grade

Each quarter all students will begin with a 30-point class participation grade. Two point demerits will be applied primarily for the following;

- * Incomplete homework (including assigned screencasts for home viewing)
- * Worksheets or review book assignments when checked that are incomplete. Chem – is - try!
- * Not following class cell phone rules.
- * Failure to wear goggles in lab, leaving a messy lab station and dirty glassware (*both partners are responsible for their station*).
- * Clowning around in lab.

Dr. C will keep track of the date and occurrence. Participation grades will be posted at the end of each quarter. Students are encouraged to ask for verbal updates as they wish.

Extra Credit

3 Extra credit questions from prior topics will be found at the end of each exam. Each question is worth 1 point. Following class cell phone rules as a group *may* also provide an opportunity for extra credit. Points earned will be added to the final score of an exam. **This is the only extra credit provided in this class.** Individual requests for extra credit during and at the end of a quarter or year cannot be honored.

Homework

Homework provides a student time to self-assess their knowledge and ability for any given topic. Homework may be worksheets provided in class or questions in the regents' chemistry review book. There is no set number for each type, in any topic. Students are encouraged to work on their homework in the absence of their cell phones. Dr. C may periodically, at his discretion, check to see if homework is being attempted. When and if checked, not having a homework assignment will result in a two-point deduction from the class participation grade.

Midterm

There will be a midterm that will be part of either the second or third quarter grade. It will depend on the date. The midterm is a multiple-choice exam scored out of 100 point and is applied as one of the quarter grades. There are no exemptions from the midterm exam.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam given during "finals week" in June. It will be a comprehensive exam to help prepare for the chemistry regents. The final will be included in the 4th quarter average. The course grade is determined from the four quarters and the regents' exam. The final exam will be scored out of 100 points and will be all multiple-choice. There are no exemptions from the final exam.

Regents' Exam

All students enrolled in regents' chemistry are expected to take the chemistry regents' exam. This is worth 1/5 of the final grade. Failure to sit for this exam will result in a zero applied to the final grade.

The College Board Chemistry Specialty Test (SAT II)

If a student plans on taking this assessment, I highly recommend you sign up for the June exam. If there is an interest in setting up review classes, Dr. C will set up sessions and provide help outside of class time.

What to do when you just don't get it???

Extra Help

Extra help days and times will be posted on my website home page. You do not have to have questions to attend extra help. However it does help.

Students are encouraged to email Dr. C when they have homework questions. A response can typically be expected any day of the week until 8 pm.



Honors chemistry syllabus signature sheet-

By signing below the student and parent (guardian) acknowledge that they have read and understand Dr. Colascione's Honors chemistry syllabus.

Student _____ Date _____
Printed name

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____