Chemistry 121: Introduction to Chemistry
Spring Quarter, 2011

Instructor: Christine Loftus, MS MPH
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Office hours: Monday during and after lab; Tuesday 4:15 to 5 pm; Wednesdays and Fridays 2:20 to 3 pm, and other times by appointment.

Course website: http://seattlecentral.edu/faculty/cloftus/CHE121.htm

Required materials and resources


• CHEM 121 lab manual: The manual will be available for purchase from the SCCC Copy Center.

• Calculator: By the second class meeting, you will need a calculator that can perform logarithms and scientific notation. Graphing calculators are acceptable, but calculators on phones will not work well for this class. Bring your calculator to every class meeting.

• Reliable Internet access: Occasionally, I will need to send important announcements to the class by email, and there are certain materials that will be available on the course website alone, such as homework assignments and answer keys. Please let me know if you don’t have reliable and consistent Internet access. On the first floor of SAM, Room 101 has a computer lab that is open to student use from 2 to 6 pm every weekday.

Class meetings

Lectures: MWF, 1-2:20 pm. Please arrive for lecture on time and ready to work.
Lab: M, 2:30-5:20 pm.

Notes regarding class cancellations: In the event of severe weather, the college may be closed or have a delayed opening. You obtain updated information on the closure status by calling the information line (206-587-5464), or from the website www.seattlecolleges.com, which also allows the option of subscribing to cell phone or email alerts.

Assignments and evaluation

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Laboratory work (25%)
Each week you must read the experiment in advance of the lab period and complete a pre-lab assignment, which is due at the beginning of class on Monday. A post-lab report is due at the beginning of class on the following Monday. No make-up labs are offered.

Homework assignments (20%)
There will be homework assigned from the textbook and from handouts, due at the beginning of class every Wednesday. Most problems will be graded for effort, but some problems will be inspected closely for effort and correctness. On some assignments, extra credit problems present an opportunity to explore chemistry concepts as they relate to current events or everyday phenomena, and will be worth a small number of points; extra credit problems must be done independently, without the help of other students, to obtain credit.
Weekly quizzes (30%)
You will complete a 30-minute quiz at the end of class every Friday. To prepare for this quiz, you should review the answers to the homework due on Wednesday of that week and complete the “suggested problems for extra practice” listed on that homework assignment. Your lowest quiz score from the quarter will be dropped.

Final exam (20%)
The final exam is cumulative and will be administered on Wednesday, June 15th at 1:00 pm. Please be sure that your travel plans do not conflict with this date – it is very difficult to arrange an alternate time for final exams.

In-class assignments and participation (5%)
A significant proportion of lecture time will be spent working on problem sets and other types of in-class exercises. Your grade for this category will reflect the amount of effort you have put into these activities.

General class policies and advice on how to succeed

Turn in your own, independent work on homework assignments and lab reports
You will probably work with other students throughout the quarter but be sure that all work you turn in represents your own, independent effort. Even if you work with a lab partner on an experiment, your answer to questions on the “post-lab” assignments must be in your own words. Students who turn in answers that are identical will each share half of the credit for that assignment.

Be prepared for lecture and participate actively
I will try to minimize the time that I lecture and ask that you participate actively on in-class assignments. Please do not use phones or computers to text message, read emails, or play games during class time – this will detract from your learning experience as well as distract the instructor and other students. Be prepared to be called upon to answer questions if you are using a phone or hand-held computer in class 😊. However, if you have an emergency that requires you to keep your phone active, please let me know.

Make use of course resources and get extra help when needed
This class is designed so that the only materials you will need to be successful are the textbook, lecture notes and handouts, and the lab manual. If you are ever turning to the Internet for answers to questions or alternate explanations, this may be a waste of your time. Instead, let me know if you need extra help or assistance, or visit the tutoring centers available for extra help from both student tutors and chemistry instructors. Tutoring schedules will be posted on the course website early in the quarter.

Be realistic about your time constraints this quarter
This class will demand a serious time commitment and require you to stay organized and work throughout the week on assignments. Feel free to talk to me if you are concerned about whether you have enough time to be successful in CHE121 this quarter.

Don’t skip class except in the case of absolute emergencies
If you have a serious emergency that causes you to miss class, please talk with me as soon as possible. If you miss more than three classes, you may need to take an “incomplete” for the course.

Have fun! Really.