



# Chemistry I Syllabus

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M.A.T (2020), B.S. Chemistry (2017)

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## Course Description

Chemistry I is a laboratory science course where students investigate the composition of matter and the physical and chemical changes it undergoes. Students use science process skills to study the fundamental structure of atoms, the way atoms combine to form compounds, interactions between matter and energy, forces and interactions, and waves. Problem-solving, critical thinking, applied laboratory techniques, and applied learning are all integral aspects of the course. This course contains a significant laboratory and writing component in order to ensure college and/or workforce readiness. This course is split into two semesters.

## Teacher's Introduction

Chemistry is often perceived as a difficult course that only “smart” people can understand. This is far from true. Have you ever looked at some phenomena and wondered how it works? More than likely the explanation is rooted in a fundamental concept you will learn in this course. My goal for you is to leave this class with not only a sound understanding of the concepts, but also with a deeper appreciation for the sciences and confidence.

## Course Outline

Instruction: Each class period will begin with an article to read or a question for students to respond to (Great Start). During lecture, students are encouraged to ask questions and interact. Lab demonstrations will often be utilized, and some days will be designated lab days. Lecture will consist of explanation of concepts with heavy emphasis on worked example problems and student interaction. Each class ends with a Big Finish.

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Homework: Students will be assigned roughly 20 problems a week. Each problem set will be a mixture of the unit we are currently covering plus science ACT prep. Homework will be turned in via Google Classroom online. If you do not have access to home internet or cell phone data, paper copies will be available each Monday. Homework is due by 11:59PM each Sunday night. (Paper copies due Monday.) Computers are not needed; this course is built for cell phones! Any work turned in after the due date will be late, resulting in a deduction of points. **Remember, YOU are responsible for obtaining assignments on days missed. Check Google Classroom. DO NOT come the next day and ask "did I miss anything?"** There will be one homework grade per unit (all homework and **roll calls** averaged together). Homework cannot be made up.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the discretion of the teacher. Expect one on most Fridays that covers material from that Monday-Thursday. Also, often in chemistry there are certain values, tables, or trends that students must know to understand specific concepts. This is my way of ensuring students are actively learning such information. ***Also, be aware that I may give a pop quiz if most of the class appears to not be paying attention.***

Notebook: Students are required to keep a notebook using these guidelines:

A) A three-ring binder that contains class notes and any handouts I let you keep. Your unit vocabulary words must be kept there, too. This binder must be kept in order (i.e., unit 2 cannot be mixed up with unit 1 or 3) and all pages must be hole punched.

B) Students will also be required to keep a special template provided for each lab here.

C) Stuffing more than 10 pages in the side pockets will earn you a zero (0) for the grade. This will be thoroughly evaluated once a semester and will be counted as a test grade.

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Exams: Students will be tested after covering 1-2 units. Exams are for students to show me they have adequately studied and learned the material. Exams will be comprehensive (for example, you will see some exam 1 material on exam 2) and free response (occasionally mixed with multiple choice). If you miss an exam day it is your responsibility to schedule a time to take it.

Google Classroom: Google Classroom will be utilized regularly. Homework will be assigned there, and I may use it to give exams. It is important you get your classroom code and sign into your Google Classroom! I will also use this tool to post class announcements. ***Get the app on your phone, check it often, and do not disable notifications! These are requirements.*** Work is posted under the “classwork” tab. Students normally stop checking their notifications after a while. I will take random Google Classroom participation grades (“Roll Calls”) to ensure this no longer happens. These will be averaged with your unit homework grades.

I also have a second Google Classroom with my lectures on YouTube. Each daily lecture has a dedicated video organized by unit and lesson. This is completely optional and not required ***unless*** you miss class. If you do, use this to catch up. The code is **lrbjbza**.

## Grading Policy

The composition of your grade will be calculated as follows:

**Tests/Projects: 50% (Including notebook checks)**

**Unit Homework: 25%**

**Labs/Quizzes/Group Work: 25%**

A: 93 - 100%

B: 85 - 92 %

C: 75 - 84%

D: 70 - 74%

F: Below 70%

- Late homework will result in a 10-point drop per day
- Labs cannot be made up; if missed, expect an alternative assignment

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- Refusal to work/pay attention will result in swift discipline
- **\*In order to participate in labs, you must fill out the lab safety agreement and complete the in-class quiz.**

Exam Re-take Policy: I no longer allow students to do retakes on exams or quizzes. This was offered for two years and either abused or totally unused. Exams will be comprehensive; therefore, if you wish to “retake” an exam, you will have to score mastery on the next exam for the grade to be replaced. Example: 75 on test 1 and 85 on test 2, 85 will be the grade for both.

## **Needed Classroom Supplies – Have by 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Class!**

Minimum 2-inch three ring binder **(composition notebook will not work)**

Small/cheap notebook

Pencils

Black or blue ink pens

College ruled paper (loose leaf- ***no spiral bound notebooks for main binder!***)

Highlighters (recommended)

## **Classroom Rules & Procedures**

### Rules

1. Class begins the moment you walk in the door
2. Do not start packing up or leaving your seat until the bell rings
3. No cell phones may be out unless directed by the teacher
4. Do what is right

### Procedures

1. I will close the door when the bell rings - being tardy requires an admit slip
2. Transitions between desks and lab stations must be completed in one minute
3. All safety equipment must be put on during the one-minute transition period on lab days
4. While in groups each member must fulfill their given role and stay in the group---*no roaming*

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## Consequences

1st offense: Written or verbal warning / meeting after class

2nd offense: Call / Text to Parents / Points off

3rd offense: Office referral

## Cheating

-Immediate zero (0) on assignment and parental contact

## Cell Phone Policy

Students are not to have their cell phones or other devices out unless instructed to for classroom purposes. The first offense will be a verbal warning and subsequent offences will result in points off and possible confiscation if continued. If a student is supposed to be working on their phone and is caught doing something else on it the same consequences will apply.

## **Safety in the Classroom**

To keep students safe from COVID-19, Mr. Johnson will personally ensure the following daily:

1. All students (and the teacher) will properly wear a mask.
2. Desks will be spaced 3ft apart (across). My room is large, and I only set out 25 desks. Lab tables will also be optional at 5 feet apart. Students have the option to sit/stand at a lab table.
3. Each desk and lab table will be sanitized twice daily with hospital grade disinfectant.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available in copious amounts. We may even make it as a lab.
5. The room will be well ventilated.
6. Even though we will do labs and group work, group sizes will be reduced with distancing enforced.

***(Any rule the district comes out with after the printing of this syllabus supersedes any of my rules and will be followed.)***

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## Miscellaneous

- Dress code must be followed according to the CCHS handbook
- Attendance to each class is vital (missing class = failing)
- Students or parents may request a take-home textbook
- Students only get 5 bathroom tickets per semester and I keep record
- **Parents – please DO NOT unsubscribe from Remind! This is how I will contact you.**

Remember..... “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is tied to everything else in the universe.”                      John Muir (1838-1914)