

College Chemistry Course Syllabus
2023-2024 School Year
Dr. Gene Wicks

Contact Information:

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Conference Period: 4th Hour, 10:50 -11:40 AM

College Chemistry Course Description:

College Chemistry (General Chemistry I) will focus on fundamental principles of chemistry with emphasis on the scientific method, basic chemical reactions, acid-base equilibria, stoichiometry, periodic trends of elements, an introduction to the energy of reactions, atomic structure, simple bonding models, molecular structure, intermolecular forces, and nuclear chemistry. Students will spend three school days at LSSU performing labs in addition to performing labs at Sault High. At the end of the General Chemistry I portion of the course, all students will take the American Chemical Society (ACS) First Term General Chemistry exam. If any time remains in the school year, we will continue our study of College Chemistry to ensure that students are well prepared for success in General Chemistry II.

Purpose Statement:

College Chemistry is a science course intended for college-bound 11th and 12th grade students. Students who take College Chemistry will be concurrently enrolled in General Chemistry I (CHEM 115) at Lake Superior State University (LSSU). General Chemistry I, Introduction to Fundamental Principles in Chemistry, is often required for college students pursuing a science, engineering, pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-veterinary, health-related, pharmacy, forensic science, or technology degree.

Prerequisites:

Students should have a “B” or better in Algebra 1, Proof Geometry, and Honors Chemistry. Prior or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 is required. Prior or concurrent enrollment in Physics is recommended. You must also meet LSSU’s admissions requirements (see your high school counselor).

Course Materials:

Our course text will be Chang, R. (2010). *Chemistry* (10th ed). Boston: McGraw-Hill, and our lab text will be LSSU’s *CHEM 115 Laboratory Manual*. You will also need a scientific calculator.

Evaluation Criteria:

This course is evaluated on a points-based system.

- 10 % Homework and Classwork. These assignments may include textbook problems, in-class work, computer-based learning, writing assignments, and discussion activities. Tests will emphasize the knowledge and problem-solving skills acquired from completing these assignments. See a list of assignments at www.saultschools.org/Page/6316.
- 10 % Laboratory Activities. ***You will receive lab safety training throughout the school year, and you will be expected to work safely while participating in all lab activities.*** We will perform labs at both the high school and LSSU. On lab days, your attendance at LSSU is required. Missing more than one lab will result in automatic failure of the course (LSSU policy).

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10 % Quizzes. There will be approximately ten quizzes during the course. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

45 % Tests. There will be two or three tests per marking period. Tests may cover multiple chapters from the textbook. Remember to bring a scientific calculator on test days. A Periodic Table of the Elements will be provided.

25 % Final Examination. At the end of the General Chemistry I (CHEM 115) portion of the course, all students will be required to take the American Chemical Society (ACS) First Term General Chemistry Exam. A Periodic Table of the Elements will be provided.

The following grading scale is used. Although a student must earn at least a “D-” (60 %) in order to pass the course at Sault High, a student must earn a **“C” (73%) or higher** to enroll in General Chemistry II (CHEM 116) at LSSU.

> 93	A	80-82	B-	68-69	D+
90-92	A-	78-79	C+	63-67	D
88-89	B+	73-77	C	60-62	D-
83-87	B	70-72	C-	0-59	E

Test Retakes:

No quiz or test retakes are available, and no extra credit is available.

Assignment Policy:

Late assignments will only be accepted in the case of an excused absence.

Make-up Work:

For each excused absence, a student will be given one day to complete make-up assignments. If you know you will miss a scheduled quiz, test, or LSSU lab day you need to contact me prior to the absence to make arrangements for the make-up. Students will have a maximum of *one week* from an absence to complete a missed quiz, test, or lab. Otherwise the score will be zero. Make arrangements with me to complete missed quizzes, tests, or labs before or after school. After ten unexcused absences, a student's work will no longer be scored.

Special Needs:

Dr. Wicks requests that students with special needs privately inform him of their needs during the first two weeks of school. This will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made in collaboration with a special education teacher.

Special Note:

Due to COVID-19, we must be prepared to switch between in-person and online learning as needed to reduce health risks for students and staff this school year. Although switching may occur, the pace and workload for this course will remain the same. In an online learning environment, your attendance (with camera on) at several Google Meet or Zoom sessions per week may be required in order to meet all of the course's learning objectives. Other adaptations may also be needed to facilitate learning.

Classroom Expectations:

- (1) Students will follow school rules regarding masks, sanitizing, and social distancing.
- (2) Students will come to class prepared to learn. Bring the textbook, paper, a pencil, and a scientific calculator to class every day. Hall passes will not be issued to students who forget to bring their textbook.
- (3) Students will take notes and actively participate in both classroom and online activities.

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- (4) Students will respect the teacher, classmates, and visiting staff members. For example, when I am speaking, you should be listening rather than talking to friends, using your cell phone, or using ear buds. When others are speaking, you should be respectful toward them while they express thoughts or feelings related to the class. Actions or comments unkind to other students will not be tolerated.
- (5) Students will respect school property and the property of others. For example, please do not sit on any desks or lab tables. Please do not write on the desks. Take your textbook with you when class is over. In addition, do not use or take things that belong to other people.
- (6) Students will know the safety rules and work safely in the laboratory.
- (7) Students will use the drinking fountain and bathroom before coming to class. Hall passes will be reserved for emergencies only. Smart Pass must be used if a student has to leave the room.
- (8) Students will read and follow the rules described in the student handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found at www.saultschools.org/domain/481. For example, in the classrooms, students are not allowed to have backpacks, wear hats, wear hoods, eat food, or drink soda pop.
- (9) Students will be honest when taking tests. Any student suspected of cheating or assisting another student in cheating will receive a zero and will not be allowed to retake the test. With the exception of a scientific calculator, no electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, iPads, laptops, ear buds, or similar devices) may be used during tests. LSSU handles any form of cheating or plagiarism in accordance with the University policy on academic integrity: <https://www.lssu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>.
- (10) Students will not use technology, including laptops, Chrome books, cell phones, smart watches, iPods, ear buds, and similar devices, without permission. In addition, you are not allowed to use my computer, laptop, or classroom telephone.
- (11) Students will keep noise levels within acceptable limits during labs.

Failure to “live up” to these expectations may result in verbal warnings, having to stay after class, phone calls home, conferences with a parent or guardian, grade reduction for specific assignments, detention before or after school with the teacher, or referral to the assistant principal depending upon the nature and severity of a student’s offenses.

Classroom Procedures:

- Seating Chart:*** Each class has a seating chart. You are expected to sit in your assigned seat during the entire class period every day, unless otherwise instructed.
- Tardiness:*** You are tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Tardiness will be handled as described in the student handbook. Excessive tardies will result in a referral to the Assistant Principal.
- Technology:*** During class, cell phones and related electronic devices will be used for instructional purposes only. Otherwise, during the first week of school, you will receive a verbal reprimand. During the second week, your electronic device will be taken and returned at the end of the period. After the second week, your device will be given to the office for your parents to pick up.
- Dismissal:*** The bell does not dismiss you at the end of class. I will dismiss you. You must be in your assigned seat until I dismiss you.
- In the Hall:*** If you are out in the hall before the bell rings, you will be required to stay at least one minute immediately after class.
- Course Assistance:*** Mondays and Wednesdays after school are good times to see me if you need course assistance. Other times are available by appointment.

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Signatures:

I have read the College Chemistry course syllabus, and I have had an opportunity to ask questions about how the course will be conducted. (A copy of the College Chemistry course syllabus will be available online at www.saultschools.org/Page/6316 throughout the school year.) I understand that this a college-level course intended for 11th and 12th grade students, and this course will require extra study time beyond the amount expected for a high school science course. I also understand that some unit tests will cover multiple chapters. I understand that all College Chemistry students will be enrolled in General Chemistry I (CHEM 115) at Lake Superior State University, and ALL students must complete the American Chemical Society (ACS) First Term General Chemistry exam at the end of the course. In addition, I understand that some of the lab activities will take place at Lake Superior State University, and ALL students are required to be present when these take place. Although student backgrounds have been carefully screened at the beginning of the course to help ensure success, occasionally there is a student who struggles. I understand that any student having a semester grade of "C-" or lower at the end of first semester will be dropped from the course. Finally, in the rare circumstance when a student drops, the student's family will be responsible for reimbursing the school district for LSSU expenses the district paid so the student could take the course.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____