

Practical Chemistry

2014-2015

Code: S538 Full Year (1 credit)

Dr. Birnbaum/Mrs. Petersen

Course Requirements

Introduction:

This is a non-regent, non-laboratory course designed to examine some of the fundamental concepts in chemistry. Practical Chemistry is a unique course where you will learn a variety of chemical principles and a new language of symbols and scientific terminology. You will also learn problem-solving skills that can be applied to a wide range of problems encountered in life situations. Chemistry is everywhere!

Classroom Behavior:

You are expected to follow all school rules. This means being in class on time and being prepared for each day. ALL Food and Drink are prohibited in the class room (including but not limited to: candy, gum, coffee). **CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE USED** at any time in the classroom - NO EXCEPTIONS. Applying make-up in the classroom is prohibited. Students who exhibit disruptive behavior will be referred to their administrator. Attached are specific guidelines for classroom routines, guidelines, and behavioral expectations.

Tardiness:

You are expected to be on time for class, in your seat, and ready to begin work when the bell rings. If you enter class after the bell rings, you are tardy. You must have a pass in order for a tardiness not to be counted against you; not all excuses are considered legitimate reasons for being late. After three tardies, you may be assigned detention.

Required Supplies: To be brought to class daily

- Ring binder (for unit packets, various worksheets and other important paperwork)
- Unit Packets (contain daily worksheets) will be provided
- Note paper or notebook (for taking notes in class)
- Writing tool (pen or pencil) [NOTE: only blue/black pen **or** pencil are acceptable for written assignments handed in for grading]
- Reference tables (each student will be given their own the first week of class)
- Calculator (simple scientific calculator- programmable/graphing calculators are NOT permitted)

Grading:

Grades are calculated as follows: (these are subject to change)

Tests	40%
Activities	20%
Homework	20%
Class work	20%

Tests:

One test is given after each unit covered as well as a midterm and final exam.

You will be given sufficient notice of all tests to be given. All test dates are posted in the classroom as well as on the website. Review for each test will be done in class the day before.

Any student that takes out a CELL PHONE during a test will be given a grade of zero on the test - NO EXCEPTIONS!

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given as necessary to check student progress. Most quizzes will be announced ahead of time.

[Note: pop quizzes may be given at any time].

Quiz questions may cover the most recent homework and/or class work. [Note: you may be able to use your handwritten class notes on some quizzes].

Any student that takes out a CELL PHONE during a quiz will be given a grade of zero on the quiz - NO EXCEPTIONS!

Activities:

The students will perform various activities in the classroom. These consist of hands on lab type activities, video presentations, reading scientific articles, investigating current events, or teacher demonstrations.

Homework:

Homework is an important opportunity to review and practice the skills learned in class. It is not assigned as busy work. Homework is due at the beginning of the period on the day it is due. Homework will generally be assigned three to four times each week. **Late homework will not be accepted**, except in the case of an **excused** absence in which case the homework assignment will be due at the beginning of class on the first day back. It is the **student's responsibility** to make sure homework is handed in if absent.

Class Work:

This grade is based on positive participation in classroom activities (individual and/or group) and interaction with the teacher and with other students in the class. It is also a reflection of the student's behavior in the class, timely arrival to class, and completion of assigned work both in and out of class. Worksheets contained in the unit packets will be assigned and are expected to be completed in class (sufficient time will be given to complete each assignment). If a student does not complete assigned worksheet(s) in class it is expected that the student will complete all worksheets on their own time.

Midterm and Final Exams:

There will be a midterm exam given in January and a final exam given in June. The midterm exam will count as 25% of the final grade for marking period 2 and the final exam will count as 20% of the final grade for the year. The midterm and final exams are both *cumulative* exams. Students with a **legitimate** excuse for being absent on exam day will be given the opportunity to make up the exam(s). Students that do not make up the exam(s) in the scheduled make-up time allotted will be given a grade of zero for the exam(s). Students illegally absent on exam day will be given a grade of zero for the exam(s).

Student Absences:

It is the **student's responsibility** to keep track of work missed due to absence from class and to schedule time to make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to complete this work and hand each assignment in on time.

Quizzes and tests must be made up outside of class time (during a student's free period or after school) and will be taken in the test center. Missed notes may be gotten from a classmate. **NOTE: being absent one day before a test or quiz does NOT excuse a student from taking the test or quiz on the scheduled day!**

Extra help and questions:

Available during and after school, most days, by appointment. There will be an after school review session before each test.

All students who are having difficulties are strongly encouraged to stay for extra help.

If you need extra help remember that this is more important than sports practice or working after school. It is up to each student to adjust his/her schedule in order to attend extra help sessions. Chemistry is unique in that it is a building block course. This means that each unit builds on the unit before so it is crucial to learn and understand the content as we go along otherwise you *will* have problems as we continue on. **It is always more difficult to work from a deficit.**

Remember, CHEM-IS-TRY. Good work habits, good behavior, and regular attendance will have a significantly positive impact on your success in this class.

To contact Dr. Birnbaum

Phone: (845) 897-6700 ext 30137 [Note: Teachers share this extension so if you leave a message please state which teacher the message is for, the name of the student you are calling in regards to and the best time to return your call]

E-mail: Steven.Birnbaum@wcsdny.org

Kristin.Petersen@wcsdny.org ext 30104

Please take a moment to fill in the next page. Your son/daughter is getting HW credit for turning this in. Thanks!

Dr. Birnbaum/Mrs. Petersen

Course Requirements: Practical Chemistry

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please review and **keep** the attached course requirements and have your student bring up any questions you may have in class or contact me directly. I encourage you to call me at John Jay any time you want a progress report. If there is anything you wish me to know about your student, please either write the information below or call me at school at (845) 897-6700, ext 30137.

Please **sign** and have your student sign below indicating that you have both received and reviewed the course requirements. Thanks in advance for your support, and I hope to meet you on Parents Night!

Please fill in phone numbers where you can be reached (include the best time to reach you) and your e-mail address. I believe that parent contact is essential to each student's success. I look forward to working

together with you to make this course a pleasant, rewarding and successful experience for your son/daughter.

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY:

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

* * * * *

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Work phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Home phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Parent e-mail address:
