THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CHEM 1311 / General Chemistry I / Course Syllabus

*Course Syllabus may be subject to change

Instructor: Ms. Vanessa L. Garcia, M.S.  
E-mail address: vanessa.garcia@utrgv.edu
Office: Book Bee 132  
Office Hours: MTW 5:00pm-6:00pm R 12:00pm-2:00pm or by appointment

Course Description: This course includes the fundamentals of atomic structure, electronic structure and periodic table, nomenclature, the stoichiometry reactions, gas laws, thermochemistry, chemical bonding, and structure and geometry of molecules.

Prerequisites: MATH 1314 (College Algebra) with a minimum grade of “C”

Required Textbook: Chemistry 3rd ed. (Author: Julia Burdge)

Required Supplies: Scientific Calculator, Scantron sheets

Student Learning Outcome for General Chemistry:
1. To understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.
2. To recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.
3. To identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.
4. To demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture.

FALL 2016 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Aug 29  
Fall classes begin
Sept 1  
Last day to add or register for Fall classes
Sept 2  
Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) for a 80% refund
Sept 5  
Labor Day Holiday, no classes
Sept 14  
Census day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
Nov 17  
Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
Nov 18 - Dec 8  
Online course evaluations available
Nov 24 - Nov 25  
Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes
Dec 8  
Study Day, no classes
Dec 9 – Dec 15  
Final Exams

BLACKBOARD
I will make extensive use of Blackboard. All of the Power Point Lectures Presentations will be posted ahead of time under Course Materials and will be available for students to access. Make sure to periodically check your Blackboard and UTRGV e-mail accounts for announcements and posting from the instructor.
Email communication with the instructor will only occur via your UTRGV email address.

Exams
There will be 4 major exams given during the semester plus a comprehensive final. The lowest score from any of the 4 major exams will be dropped. The final exam’s score will NOT be dropped. Absolutely no cell phones or other electronics will be permitted during the exams!

Exam grades will be posted on Blackboard as soon as they become available. Please make sure that the score on Blackboard corresponds to the score on your paper. If this is not the case, talk to the instructor so that any discrepancy can be resolved.

Exam Make-up Policy
Make up exams, including exams need to be taken early, will be given only in cases of illness, professional school interviews, or official UTRGV functions. If an exam is to be missed, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor ahead of time and to provide with valid documentation to support his/her request for a make-up. In case of illnesses, an excuse signed by a medical doctor must be presented. In case a make-up exam is given, it will be at the discretion of the instructor and at a time convenient to her schedule.

Final Exam
A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester.
MW Lecture: 3:05-4:20pm Final Date and Time: W 12/14 1:15-3:00pm
TR Lecture: 3:05-4:20pm Final Date and Time: R 12/15 1:15-3:00pm

Assignments & Study Sessions
Online homework assignments will be given periodically during the semester. Approximately 10 assignments will be given out. The assignments will be posted online under the Sapling Learning software. Attendance for the study sessions is mandatory and will be counted in your overall grade.

No Late Assignments Will Be Accepted!

Questions on Graded Assignments/Exams
If a student believes that a question on an assignment/exam has been miss graded, the student should bring it up to the instructor’s attention during office hours (NOT DURING CLASS TIME) without delay. The student MUST support his/her claim by working out the problem in advance and present a written solution to it. If the question entails theory, then the student must provide the textbook page or place in the class notes were his or her claim is supported. Please make sure to take care of any problems before the next exam or assignment. I will NOT discuss any grading concerns after this period.

Double check your marked answers on your Scantron Sheets before submission. No credit will be given for mismarked answers! NO EXCEPTIONS!

Grading Policy

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Major Exams</td>
<td>60% (20% Each)</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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<td>Assignment Average</td>
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<td>Study Session Attendance</td>
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<td>59 and Under</td>
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**STUDENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students are expected to carry themselves and to behave as adults and to show respect for fellow students, the professor and the university setting. A high degree of decorum is expected from the students while in this class. No class room misconduct such as talking in class, using cell phones or any other way that disturbs the lecture delivery will be tolerated. Student(s) behaving in such matter will be asked to leave the class room. If the problem persists, the student(s) will be permanently barred from class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- Oct 5 – Oct 12 for Module 1 courses
- Dec 1 – Dec 7 for Module 2 courses
- Nov 18 – Dec 8 for full fall semester courses

**ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes
but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.