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: SETB 1.504   Office Hours: MT 9:00am-10:00am; Th 9:00am-12:00pm 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: Refer to ASSIST for all prerequisites.

Required Access: TopHat

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.

Learning Outcomes for CHEM 1311

The overall goal in terms of learning outcomes is to help you to have meaningful learning of the topics we will cover in this course. This meaningful learning involves two main types of learning: a) learning to use formulas, equations, and procedures to carry out calculations and similar types of operations, and b) learning ideas and concepts in order to be able to explain and apply them in possibly new and different situations.

The end of each chapter in the text has a section with a review checklist, in which important terms, key equations, a summary of facts and concepts, and operational skills are outlined. The key equations and operational skills are important for the type of learning outlined in part a) above, while the important terms and summary of facts and concepts are important for the type of learning in part b) above. Use these resources! In addition to these general chemistry content learning outcomes above, there are several specific learning objectives for this course.

The first learning objective is to develop critical thinking skills, through which you are able to interpret and analyze data, models, laws, and theories in order to explain, evaluate, and predict outcomes of various chemical scenarios. In order to measure the outcome of this learning objective, general chemistry exams will be evaluated to determine the average proportions of the exams focused on critical thinking. These evaluation results will serve as a proxy for the level of emphasis of critical thinking skills in the course.
The second learning objective is to develop communication skills, so that you are able to communicate your knowledge and understanding of chemistry to both your peers and your instructors, and so that you are able to effectively evaluate chemical information from various sources, including scientific literature and the media. In order to measure the outcome of this learning objective, instructors will be provided with a survey asking them to report on the frequency with which they have their students working in groups or teams in order to assess the environment for the development of communication skills among students and their peers.

The third learning objective is to develop empirical and quantitative skills, so that you can effectively engage in using formulas, equations, and procedures to carry out the various calculations and similar types of operations involved in quantitative aspects of chemistry. In order to measure the outcome of this learning objective, general chemistry exams will be evaluated to determine the average proportions of the exams focused on quantitative skills. These evaluation results will serve as a proxy for the level of emphasis of quantitative skills in the course.

The fourth learning objective is to develop teamwork skills, so that you can effectively engage in and contribute to group activities focused on the development and construction of knowledge and understanding of chemical principles, as well as the practice and application of chemical skills and principles. In order to measure the outcome of this learning objective, instructors will be provided with a survey asking them to report on the frequency with which they have their students working in groups or teams in order to assess the environment for the development of teamwork skills among students and their peers. In this course teamwork is not formally graded, but you will work in small groups during class to answer questions and solve problems. If you continue to work in such groups outside class, whether for homework or for studying, you may positively impact your performance on homework and exam.

FALL 2017 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
August 28     First day of classes
August 31     Last day to add a course or register for Fall 2017
September 4   Labor Day – NO classes
November 15    Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
November 23 – 26  Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
December 6     Last day of classes
December 7     Study Day – NO class
December 8 -14  Fall 2017 Final Exams
December 15-16  Commencement Ceremonies

BLACKBOARD, TOPHAT, & EMAIL
All of the Power Point Lectures Presentations will be posted in TopHat and will be available for students to access. Make sure to periodically check your Blackboard, TopHat, and UTRGV e-mail accounts for announcements and postings 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! If caught with a device that is prohibited, the exam will be taken away and a zero “0” will be given as the official grade for the exam. 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.
MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY
Make up exams, including exams to be taken early, will only be given due to a major medical illness requiring immediate treatment, there is a death of an immediate family member, you must participate in a required university activity, you are observing a religious holy day, or you are currently serving in the military. Documentation is required for all of these cases. In the cases of your illness or a family member’s death, documentation is required when you return to campus. In the case of a required university activity, a religious holy day, or military service, documentation is required at least one week prior to the activity. 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. Please note, however, that a makeup exam might be different than the regularly scheduled exam.

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

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 TopHat 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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**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 classroom 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**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. 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:

- Fall 2017 Module 1 Oct. 5 – Oct. 11
- Fall 2017 Module 2 Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
- Fall 2017 (full semester) Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

**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 (including self-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 that is 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.