

Chemistry

Course Syllabus

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Course Overview

Welcome to Tigard High's introductory chemistry course designed to give students a foundational understanding of matter and its interactions, meeting both pre-IB chemistry essentials and the New General Science Standards (NGSS). Apart from being a branch of science worthy of study in its own right, chemistry is a prerequisite for many other areas of science, such as medicine, ecology, forensics, and oceanography. Although it can sometimes become quite challenging, most students who stay on top of their work and come in for help when needed do well, enjoy the course, and take pride in their new understanding of the world around them. To this end, I have an open-door policy and will nearly always be available for help, or you can come in whenever you want just to have a quiet place to study and where answer keys for most assignments can be found.

Willamette Promise (optional college credit)

The Willamette Promise (WP) program offers all THS chemistry students the opportunity to earn three college credits through Western Oregon University. To receive this credit, students must pass seven WP exams with a score of 70% or higher. Students wishing to participate in this program will need to take these exams independently within a week after various unit tests given throughout the year. As an incentive, students who continue to pass these exams and maintain an overall 80% or high in class will be excused from all homework for the following unit.

Course Materials

- **Calculators:** You will need a Scientific calculator to do work outside of class (one that has an EXP, EE, or Sci button for scientific notation). However, during class students are required to use our class TI-30XA calculators.
- **Notebooks:** Students are required to use specific class composition notebook for all notes and assignments. These notebooks will be provided for all students at no charge.

Class Notes

Notes for this class are quite structured and will include detailed examples on how to solve specific problems. It is essential that these notes and examples are copied into your notebook as clearly as possible, including the date for each entry and room for any needed revisions. As nearly all tests and quizzes are written directly from material covered in class, it will be well worth your time to keep your notes as thorough and readable as possible. Also, I will often ask to look at your notes when you come in for help so that we can go over together what had been covered in class.

Homework

There will almost always be something you should be working on or reviewing, such as readings from your textbook and associated practice problems, revising classroom notes, completing a lab worksheet, or reviewing an online tutorial. Mastering such assignments will be essential if you hope to demonstrate your understanding on tests and quizzes.

Assignments

- ☞ Unless told otherwise, all assignments started in class will be due at the beginning of the next class period.
- ☞ All homework assignments and due dates can be found on our class website. You will be expected to keep track of these assignments and know when they are due.
- ☞ Late work will not be accepted!



All work must be turned in on the date due and at the start of class.

Quality of Work

All written work must meet the following basic requirements:

- Start with a proper heading, including date and assignment specifics (e.g., Page 45, problems 1-8).
- Be neat, legible, and well-spaced (providing ample room for corrections and comments).
- Written in BLACK or BLUE ink, or a dark pencil (absolutely no other colors).
- If done within your notebook (i.e., not on a worksheet), you must include the question within your answer.

Special Note On "Showing All Work":

One of the most important skills students will need to learn and demonstrate in this class will be the ability to show all steps necessary to solve a particular problem. I will go to great lengths to show exactly what is expected, so simply follow my instructions and in-class examples and all will be fine.

However, no matter how much this is emphasized there are always students who want to argue that they should not have to show work if they understand "it" and are able to arrive at the correct answer. Unfortunately, this is not what science is all about. Correct answers are near meaningless without the ability to communicate the process by which they were derived. This ability to communicate, often mathematically, is a primary skill of any scientist. So please be forewarned of this now, for I will not argue the point further: No work = no credit.

Lab Work

There will be an average of one or two labs every week. Most labs will simply be a matter of completing an accompanying worksheet, others requiring far more time and work both in and out of class.



Note: You are expected to wear proper shoes on lab days, ones that will protect your feet should you have an accident. Open-toed shoes, flip-flops, high heels, slippers, etc, are not acceptable. If you think this might be a problem, please plan to keep a backup pair of shoes in your locker. However, if needed you will be provided with a pair of disposable shoe covers so that you may proceed with that day's investigation.

Assessments

Quizzes

There will be one or more short quizzes every 1-2 weeks covering recent material and essential skills, with most being open-note quizzes.

Tests

Tests will be given at the end of every unit and will often take the entire 90 minute period to complete. You will be allowed to use one 5x8* note card on all tests. At the end of the course, you will be given a comprehensive final exam covering all material from both semesters. [The final exam will be equivalent to two test scores, and you be allowed to use a full page of notes, both sides.]

*Note cards must be original and of your own creation!

Make-up Work (excused absences only)

Missed Assignments

You will have the same number of days absent plus two to make-up any missed assignment. However, it will be your responsibility to find out what you have missed and what is required to get caught up. If you are absent just one day (either an A or B-day), you will need to bring in any assignments that were due the day before, even though our class may not meet on that day.

Missed Tests or Quizzes

If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you will have one week from the date of the test to take that test. Beyond 5 days, you will lose 10% of your final score for every additional day. For prearranged absences, the test or quiz should be taken before your absence, pop quizzes immediately upon your return.

Missed Labs (Open Lab Tuesdays)

Every Tuesday after school there will be an "Open Lab" in our classroom for students to make-up any missed lab from the previous week. You do not need to make an appointment, just show up and be ready to work. If you are unable to attend on that Tuesday, you will need to talk with me to arrange another time. However, if you wait until after that Tuesday, it will then be too late to make up the lab.

Consequences for Cheating



Students who copy work from another or allow their work to be copied will receive:

- i. a zero on the assignment
- ii. a call home
- iii. an administrative referral

Grading

Grades are weighted: 80% Tests and Quizzes
20% All other coursework

Grading scale:

A = 90%	C = 70% - 79%	F = 59%
B = 80% - 89%	D = 60% - 69%	

Note: The grade cutoffs given are not approximations. For example, 79.4% is indeed a “C,” although it is excruciatingly close to a “B.” Please realize this now. Whatever grade you hope for, plan on being well within that grade range!

Attendance Policies

Absences

All absences must be reported by a parent or guardian by calling our school attendance line at 503-431-5430 within 24 hours of an absence. As per school policy, if a student returns without his/her absent excused, he/she will receive detention.

Tardies

Students who are not ready to start work at the beginning of class will be marked tardy. For example, students who walk into class as the bell rings will be marked tardy.

Tardy Policy:

- ◇ 1st & 2nd tardy: Verbal warning and an angry scowl 😡
- ◇ 3rd & 4th tardy: 30 minutes detention or classroom cleanup 😊
- ◇ 5th tardy: Administrative Referral 💀

Please Beware! Parents cannot excuse tardies, only a note from a teacher or doctor is allowed. If getting to school on time in the morning is problematic, please start planning now on how to overcome your situation - for regardless of who is at fault, if you are late to class you will be marked tardy.

Backpacks (our room is so small!)



Please understand that our classroom is a small, chemistry laboratory and has very little area to move around in. With a large number of students, this can be quite a safety issue. Consequently, I ask that you please, please, please only bring to class those materials needed and leave your backpack in your school locker.

Incentive: Students who consistently use their locker to store their backpacks will be excused from any one homework assignment per quarter. 😊

Personal Devices



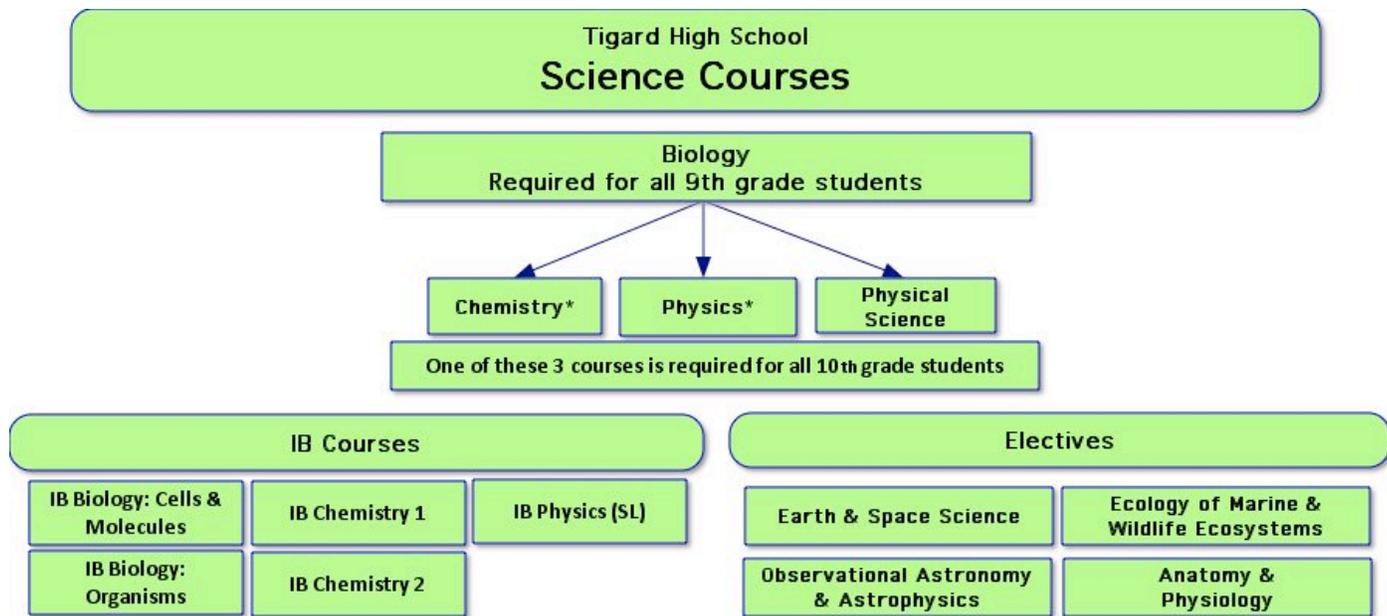
Cell phones, music players, headphones, etc., must be turned off and put away during class. If used in class, your devices will be confiscated.

Classroom Policies and Expectations

- 1.) Everyone is to be treated with courtesy and respect.
- 2.) No food or drinks are allowed in class.
- 3.) All work done must be for this class only.
- 4.) Work areas must always be left clean and neat, with stools placed back under the counters.
- 5.) All lab safety rules must be followed in complete accordance to the lab safety policies.
- 6.) Bathroom passes will require students to leave behind their cell phone.

Getting Help

I will almost always be available for help before and after school, or by appointment if needed (just see me to set up a time). Outside of school, please feel free to send an email if you have a question or need help. I can't explain too much by email, but I will nearly always be able to point you in the right direction - and I nearly always answer emails within an hour or so, if not too late at night!



= Please see course descriptions for possible prerequisites =