



AP Chemistry Course Syllabus

Teacher: Jeremy Morrow

Teacher Contact Information:

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Teacher Office Hours:

- Teacher Office Hours are before school (7:25-7:40), the last 15 minutes of lunch (M,T,TH,F) 11:10-11:25, afterschool (2:35-3:10).
- Appointments outside of the listed times are at the discretion of the teacher.
- Students who need access to teachers before 7:25 and during lunch must have a pass from the teacher

It is the policy of Hoover High School to return parent communication within 24 hours during the work week, post grades in Infinite Campus Every Thursday by 3:00, communicate with parents when grades fall into the D or F range, and post major assignments in Infinite Campus when assigned. To facilitate this, it is the expectation of Hoover High School that families will maintain current contact information (phone, address, e-mail). To update contact information, please call 242-7302. Parents can learn how to access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal in the parent handbook distributed at Registration and available on the Hoover website.

Course Description:

This AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. For most students, the course enables them to undertake, as a freshman, second year work in the chemistry sequence at their institution or to register in courses in other fields where general chemistry is a prerequisite. This course is structured around the six big ideas articulated in the AP Chemistry curriculum framework provided by the College Board. **[CR2]** A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work that scientists engage in, with learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills. AP Chemistry is open to all students that have completed a year of chemistry who wish to take part in a rigorous and academically challenging course.

Goals of the Course:

- Students are prepared to be critical and analytical thinkers, with inquiry and reasoning skills.
- Students will be able to use scientific laboratory instruments to hypothesize and make observations, collect data, calculate and analyze results and form conclusions about lab experimentation and through the use of these instruments, will be able to enhance technological skills.
- Students will be able to appreciate the thinking and laboratory skills necessary for the first and second level of a freshman college chemistry course.
- Students will be expected to take the AP Chemistry exam in the beginning of May and earn a respectable score on the AP exam.

AP Curriculum Framework

Big Idea 1:	Structure of matter
Big Idea 2:	Properties of matter-characteristics, states, and forces of attraction
Big Idea 3:	Chemical Reactions
Big Idea 4:	Rates of chemical reactions
Big Idea 5:	Thermodynamics
Big Idea 6:	Equilibrium

Behavior and Attendance:

- All students are expected to follow the established building and district behavior, attendance and tardy policy outlined in the student handbook.
- Regular attendance and being on time to class is key to success in this classroom.

Classroom Procedures:

I expect by this time in your high school careers, you are all aware of how to behave in a science classroom. This year will be no different. I expect you to come to class prepared with the “basics”. Those include a calculator, 3-ring binder dedicated to chemistry, writing utensils and assigned materials. Bringing these few simple items with you EVERY day will ensure a successful year.

Behavior in this class will be monitored closely. We will spend a large part of our time together in lab and other group work. Students that lack the skills necessary to behave properly (soft voices, efficient work ethic, safety-conscious) will be asked to leave the course prematurely. There will be absolutely NO unsafe behavior tolerated while in lab situations. Safety, in this class more than any other, is our TOP priority. We must work safely.

As per the Hoover student handbook, the use of cell phones is not permitted in the classroom. The use of other personal electronic devices (mp3 players, video games, etc) is generally not permitted, unless specifically allowed by the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Students submitting plagiarized work will be assigned to re-do the work or complete an additional and/or alternative assignment for a reduction in grade. Instances of plagiarism become part of a student's permanent disciplinary record. Students who plagiarize multiple times are subject to disciplinary action under level III or IV of the DMPS Code of conduct for students. Common examples of plagiarism include:

1. Copying and pasting information from the internet into a paper
2. Using someone else's words without referencing the source or including quotations
3. Using someone else's ideas without referencing the source

Grading and Feedback Policy

HHS Science Department

Definition of Student Achievement:

Student achievement in science is when a student demonstrates the ability to obtain, understand, analyze and communicate knowledge and skills to achieve success in school and life.

Required Study Skills and Work Habits for Success in Science:

- Come to class every day with materials and ready to engage in learning
- Keep a planner with important assignment due dates
- Ask questions frequently
- Take advantage of tutoring (lunch and after school) and teacher “office hours” 7:25-7:40 & 2:35-3:10

Grading Scale & Indicators:

Proficiency in Course Standards	Letter Grade	Description	Scale
Exemplary	A	Student is proficient in all standards and consistently demonstrates the following levels of intellectual work – Remembering, Understanding, Application, Analysis, Evaluation, and Creation	90-100%
Mastery	B	Student is proficient in all standards and consistently demonstrates the following levels of intellectual work – Remembering, Understanding, Application and Analysis	80-89%
Proficient	C	Student is proficient in all standards and consistently demonstrates the following levels of intellectual work – Remembering and Understanding	70-79%
Not Proficient, but making progress	D	Not proficient in all course standards, making progress towards proficiency in remaining standards. Demonstrates the following levels of intellectual work – Remembering and Understanding. Progress is defined as making repeated attempts with increasing levels of performance in the standard.	60-69%
Not Proficient	F	NO CREDIT AWARDED - Not proficient in all course standards AND not making progress - unable to fully evaluate levels of intellectual work. Progress is defined as making repeated attempts with increasing levels of performance in the standard. OR The student withdraws / drops a class after the deadline (7 weeks).	Below 60%
Failing Due to Attendance	F / A	Student is receiving an F in the course AND has more than 7 absences to that course. Students do not automatically receive an F when they reach 7 absences; however, this grade is intended to communicate that low performance was due to on-going attendance issues.	

Grading Categories

Grade Book Category	Assessments May Include	Weighting
Daily Work	This category focuses on smaller assessments and daily practice. It can include homework, in-class work, formative individual & group work, warm-ups & closings, and collaborative practice.	30%
Tests & Quizzes	This category consists of larger summative assignments which take place at the end of a chapter or unit of study. Quizzes included can be either summative or formative in nature and may or may not count toward a student’s final grade. This category will include the final exam/project.	50%
Labs & Activities	This category focuses on lab work and other group activities. It may include “wet” lab write-ups, projects and presentations.	20%

Improving Subject Proficiency:

Make-Up Work

- District Policy:
Schoolwork missed must be made up. Students will be given two days for each day missed. Make up time may not exceed six school days following the student’s return. The time allowed may be extended based on teacher discretion. Full credit will be given for schoolwork made up because of absence.
- Because labs involve significant set-up and preparation, students will be given one week to complete the lab or activity (or appropriate substitute).
- Labs and other activities will generally be made up outside of class time.

Missing & Late Work

- Late work handed in after the due date will be accepted until the end of the current chapter/unit of study.
- Late work will earn a maximum of 80% of the total points possible.

Retakes

- Students wishing to re-take a test must meet all of the following criteria:
 - all work from the chapter or unit of study must have been turned in when original test was taken
 - the student must request the re-take no later than one class period after the test is handed back
 - the student must complete a test review assignment and/or see the teacher for remediation outside of class time prior to being given the re-take
- Re-take scores will be averaged with the original test score.
- A student can re-take a maximum of two tests per semester.

Feedback Processes and Timelines:

- Communication of Learning Targets
 - Daily/weekly learning targets will be clearly communicated with students at the beginning of each class period.
 - Learning targets should be worded in a “students will be able to..., students should know... or I can...” format and referred to frequently as students progress through a unit of study.
- Formative Assessments
 - Teachers will use multiple types of formative assessments each day to monitor individual student progress.
 - These assessments will direct instruction for future class periods and may prompt the need for review and/or re-teaching of content/skills.
- Timeliness of Feedback
 - Assignments that are turned in will be reviewed, returned and feedback generally provided within two blocks (class periods). This time may be extended for projects and other assignments that require more time for evaluation.
 - Infinite Campus will be updated with new scores by 3pm on Thursday of each week, as per the Hoover HS policy.
 - It is our belief that science courses at Hoover are cumulative in nature. Students are encouraged to appropriately store all returned work for future reference.
- Student Monitoring of Progress
 - Teachers will provide a means by which students will monitor their own progress. This may include: weekly progress reports, missing work reports, class summary reports, in-class access to Infinite Campus or teacher-student conferences.
 - In conjunction with Infinite Campus, students and parents are expected to be proactive in monitoring personal progress and should contact the instructor if there are concerns or discrepancies.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand the above rules, expectations and policies.

Please return **THIS PORTION** of the handout to Mr. Morrow no later than Monday, September 3, 2012.

If you have questions, please contact me at the phone number or email address listed above.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date