

WELCOME TO GEOSCIENCE! This course is designed to present a variety of scientific concepts about Earth's processes and the surrounding Universe. It will integrate classroom presentations with hands-on laboratory activities.

My class emphasizes active student-centered learning. My primary goal is to encourage thinking and doing rather than simply recalling facts.

MATERIALS. The materials you will need to bring to class every day include: textbook, text workbook, colored pencils, a pencil and pen, a highlighter, a red grading pen, calculator, a folder, and your science notebook (small spiral-bound notebook).

GRADING. Grades will be based on a total point value weighted system consisting of:

Tests and Quizzes: The majority of grades will be from tests and quizzes (40%). There is a final exam at the end of each semester (15%).

The rest of the assignments (45%) are as follows:

Labs: Labs are fundamental to learning and studying chemistry. Therefore, your preparation for labs (such as homework) is extremely important. Lab grades consist of lab quizzes, lab reports and/or data sheets, and participation points for doing the activities. For grading, everybody starts with an "A". Points will be taken off for poor technique, incomplete write-ups, or coming to class unprepared. **For the safety of everyone, inappropriate behavior during labs IS NOT tolerated.** If you are removed from a lab for misbehavior or safety violations, you will receive a zero for the lab, and no make-up will be provided.

Homework and Classwork: Homework and Classwork is essential for understanding the material presented in class and material found on quizzes and tests. Notes are given with each chapter, and homework and classwork are assigned every day. Homework needs to be completed in your spiral notebook and will be graded on a regular basis. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he or she understands the problems assigned and answers given on homework. **Late work will not be accepted in this course!**

Lab Techniques and Participation: The participation will be **my evaluation** of the extent to which you have done your homework regularly, come prepared for class, cooperated in class activities, performed during laboratory periods, and similar considerations.

ABSENCES. *Making up work that you missed due to absence for any reason is your responsibility.*

TESTS - If you miss a test or quiz due to an excused absence, you need to be prepared to take the test the **first day** you return to class. No extra time will be given for makeup tests. Generally, make-ups are harder than the original test because there will not be an extra credit option and there are more specific questions from your reading.

HOMEWORK/CLASWORK/LAB – For excused absences, it is your responsibility to get the makeup work in the same number of days that you were absent. Please check the online calendar for details.

HONOR CODE. Exhibit a personal code of honor by *taking responsibility* for your work, performance, and understanding the course content. An honor violation is a very serious offense. Any act of lying, cheating, or stealing is considered an offense and immediate reporting will take place. Copying **homework**, classwork, quizzes, or tests is considered cheating. (See the Academic Dishonesty Policy in your Time Tracker).

EXPECTATIONS.

Be Prompt. Be in your assigned seat quietly working on the warm-up by the time the bell rings or you will be marked tardy. If you are not in the classroom before the bell rings, you will need to go to the office for a readmit late slip.

Follow directions.

Do not eat or drink in class.

Learn and follow group and laboratory rules.

Be Prepared.

Come to class with all materials and your completed assignments. You will not be allowed to go out to your locker to get any of these items after class has begun.

Learning can not occur if you are roaming the halls. Therefore, leaving during class is discouraged. If you need to leave, you must use an available restroom pass during your own work time, or when your work is finished, not during lecture or when you are involved in group work. No passes the first or last 10 minutes of class. Please, be responsible.

CONSEQUENCES. If at any time a student's behavior is unacceptable, the following consequences will apply:

1st Offense, teacher reprimand/verbal warning

2nd Offense, removal from class activity

3rd Offense, parent notification and detention

4th Offense, long form behavior referral

Severe misbehavior calls for an immediate removal from the classroom.