CHE 107: Principles of Chemistry (Syllabus subject to change by instructor)

Fall 2010
M W R F 1:30-2:20
Nobel Hall 201

Instructor
Dr. Amanda Nienow
Email: anienow@gustavus.edu
Office: NHS 106A; Phone: x7327
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30 pm; Wednesday 9-10 am, Friday 10:30-11:30 am
While I will be available at these times each week, I am also happy to meet with
students at other times – meeting with students one-on-one or small groups is my
favorite part of my job! If you would like to see me outside of office hours, it is
best to contact me in advance to arrange a time. You are also welcome to just
stop by my office, but I may not be there or I may be unable to see you if I am
occupied with other obligations.

Required Materials
A scientific calculator capable of doing logarithm and exponential calculations (note: you
do not need a graphing calculator)
Lab supplies: Safety goggles, bound carbon-copy lab notebook, and lab packet, all
available from the Book Mark. You must also wear closed-toed shoes for all lab
periods.

Online resources
aris.mhhe.com: This is where you do homework assignments and view homework grades.
moodle.gac.edu: This is where you can find all other course information and handouts.

Overview of Course
This course provides a basic understanding of key chemistry principles for students who
will continue in chemistry and those who will never take another chemistry course. The
course therefore focuses on basic principles for the well-informed citizen, and also
prepares students for upper-level coursework. Topics covered will include the atom,
periodicity, stoichiometry, properties of gases, liquids and solutions, acids and bases,
chemical energetics, and bonding. Laboratory work is coordinated with lecture and is
intended to illustrate principles and develop experimental skills. This course is taught in
several sections, each led by a different professor. We will use the same textbook and
laboratory program, and similar syllabi, but the exact material covered, as well as exams,
grading, and course policies may vary somewhat from section to section.

Course Goals
1) Learning the basic language and principles of chemistry
2) Understanding the prevalence of chemistry (and science in general) in modern society
3) Fostering critical thinking, and learning to apply it to problem solving
4) Develop observation skills and encourage exploration in the laboratory
**Attendance**
I do not take attendance for lecture. However, attending every lecture is strongly encouraged. If you miss a lecture, you are responsible for getting the information and/or notes covered in class from a classmate—I will not provide it for you. Moreover, you will probably find that what is said during lecture is no less important than what is written in your notes, and there is no reliable way to hear what is said without being in class and paying attention. Laboratory attendance **IS MANDATORY**.

**Chapter Objectives**
I will provide a set of objectives for each chapter/topic that we cover in this course. These objectives will only be useful to you if you read through them (preferably several times during the coverage of the chapter material). One student may benefit by reading the objectives before he begins to read text material or we begin to discuss the subject in class. This may help that student focus his reading or attention during lecture. Another student may use the objectives after we finish discussing a topic to determine whether she understood/can recall the material. A third student may use the objectives as she begins to study for an exam. She may use the objectives to determine which topic she needs to spend most of her ‘study time’. I hope that you find the objectives to be useful to you.

**Grading**
Final grades will be assigned according to the following scheme:

- Exams (4) 45%
- Lab 20%
- Quizzes (2-3) 5%
- HW (~10) 15%
- Final Exam 15%

Peer Mentoring --- If you do not attend and actively participate in eight of 10 peer mentoring sessions, you will lose up to 5% of your final course grade.

Note: different items may not be worth the same number of points (e.g. one quiz may be worth 25 points, and another 50 points). However, I do all of my grades based on percentages, so 80% on a 25 point quiz affects your overall grade exactly the same as 80% on a 50 point quiz.

**Absolute exam grading scale**: Ranges for course grades, expressed as a percentage, are:

- A 94 - 100 %
- A- 90 - 94 %
- B+ 88 - 90 %
- B 82 - 88 %
- C+ 78 - 80 %
- C 72 - 78 %
- D+ 68 - 70 %
- D 62 - 68 %
- D- 60 - 62 %
- F < 60%

**Curved exam grading scale**: Depending on the class performance, at the end of the semester (after the final exam) the cutoffs above may be **lowered** (but they will not be raised) if needed to **raise** the average course grade to between a B- and C+. That is, the above absolute grading scale may be modified by a curve in the favorable direction if warranted.
Peer Mentoring
To help you develop strong learning skills in the natural sciences and to better understand the ethos of scientific inquiry you will participate in a Peer Mentoring program. This program is funded with a grant to the College from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). Our goal is to help you be more successful in biology, chemistry, and other coursework.

Each week, you will meet with a small group of students that are enrolled in (BIO-101 or CHE-107) or both classes. The sessions are led by a talented junior or senior biology, chemistry or biochemistry major. The sessions involve hands-on, integrative activities where you will practice application of concepts, synthesis of material and gain an enhanced understanding. There are three main types of activities:

1. Lecture and Laboratory content reinforcement and practice, especially case studies, discussion, applied and integrative problems that are not assigned as homework.
2. Skill building: How to read technical material, effectively study, note-take, write clearly, analyze novel situations and use data to hone quantitative skills.
3. How to be a good scientist: learn more about communication forums, useful library and databases, maintaining integrity, avoiding plagiarism, and developing collaborations.

You are required to sign up for a peer-mentoring group in the Peer Mentoring Center, Room 121, Nobel Hall of Science (NHS) on Wednesday, Sept 8th or Thursday, Sept 9th between 4:30 and 9:30 pm. If you are enrolled in either BIO 101 Principles of Biology or CHE 107 General Chemistry, you will sign up for a group that will focus solely on that class. If you are enrolled in both BIO 101 and CHE 107, you will sign up for a group that does activities that relate to both courses. Please bring your class and event schedule so you can choose the best time for you and your lifestyle. Peer mentors will be available to answer your questions during that time.

You will meet with your group and peer mentor once a week in the Peer Mentoring Center, Nobel 121 or Nobel 222. Bring a notebook and a pen/pencil to your weekly peer mentoring session. You will not be allowed to use electronic devices of any kind (including phones, ipods, blackberries, personal electronic devices, etc) during your session. Ten formal sessions are planned for the following weeks: Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, and Dec. 6. There will be no formal peer mentoring sessions during the weeks of the Nobel Conference (Oct. 3), Reading Break (Oct. 27) and Thanksgiving (Nov. 22); however, there will be open, voluntary forums during Nobel and Reading Break weeks. A list of the Peer Mentoring activities for the whole semester is on your course Moodle site. If you do not attend and actively participate in eight of 10 peer mentoring sessions, you will lose up to 5% of your final course grade.

If you have any questions or concerns about the HHMI peer mentoring program, please contact Pamela Kittelson, HHMI Peer Mentoring Coordinator at pkittels@gustavus.edu
Exams
There will be four exams given in class on/near the dates included in the attached schedule. You are expected to take each exam in class on the day it is given. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to do so, you may arrange another time to take a make-up exam. If you are unable to take your exam because of a last minute problem (e.g. illness), you must contact me as early as possible (preferably before the exam). Make up exams in such instances will be allowed at my discretion depending on the reason for the missed exam. Be forewarned: make up exams will contain different questions than the exams given in class; it will therefore not be beneficial to you to see the exam given in class before taking a make up exam.

Exams will be meant to require the full 50 minute class period. You will need to bring your own scientific calculator to each exam (no sharing of calculators is allowed); do not count on me being able to provide one for you if you forget. Exams will contain some combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer and word problems. Each exam will cover primarily material since the last exam, but since chemistry is a cumulative subject, you will often encounter topics from previous exams by necessity. Note that we have an exam scheduled for the Monday before Thanksgiving. Please keep this in mind when you and your family make travel plans for Thanksgiving. We also have lab that Monday and Tuesday!

Quizzes
Quizzes will be similar to exams, only shorter (~30 minutes each). They may be given in class, online, or as take home assignments. Quizzes will be announced and will be given infrequently during the semester. There is currently only one scheduled quiz; others will be given as needed during the semester. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped, and there will be NO make up quizzes - under any circumstances.

HW
Approximately twelve homework assignments will be given during the semester. They will be given online or as take home assignments; online assignments are due at 10:00 am on the due date, take home assignments at the beginning of class on the due date. No late assignments will be accepted. Your lowest homework score will be dropped. Only lab is a larger contributor to your total grade than homework (each midterm exam is ~11%, altogether HW is 15%). Be sure to get the HW points!

Final Exam
The final exam will be given on Monday, December 20 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm in our classroom. All students must take the final at this time/place as mandated by the college. The final will be formatted like the midterm exams, but it will cover material from throughout the entire course.

Lab
You MUST have a passing lab grade to pass the lecture. In other words, if you have a 100% lecture grade and a 25% lab grade, you will automatically receive an F for the entire class. It is very important to attend all lab meetings and to submit all of the
required lab work for grading. If you need to miss a lab period, and have a good reason
to do so, you need to fill out the form linked to the LAB Moodle site. Please do so as far
in advance as possible. Make-up labs must be done during the week when the lab is
normally completed and must be done during another lab section.

It is quite likely that your lab instructor will not be the same as your lecture instructor. If
you have questions/concerns specifically regarding the lab (e.g. missing lab or a question
about a lab grade), you should contact your lab instructor directly. You will receive
information specific to your particular lab (grading, due dates, etc.) in lab.

Additional Notes
Quizzes and Exams
You may write in pen or pencil on quizzes and exams. However, I will not regrade any
problems on an exam written in pencil, erasable pen, or pen which has been whited out.
(If I make an adding error when totaling an exam grade, I will fix it whether the exam
was written in pen or pencil.)

HW
Homework assignments (with possible exceptions) will be given through the ARIS
website. Access to the site is given to each student with the purchase of your textbook.
You will need to register on the website in order to access it; registration should be
straightforward, but if you do it incorrectly (e.g. do not enter your email address
correctly), you will not be able to access or complete the homework assignments. The
Student Section Code you need to enter when registering 7D8-A8-7BF. You will be
allowed to attempt each problem five times. Only submit it once! You will be able to
access each HW assignment on the Monday of each week (i.e. you will have access to
HW 2 after class on 9/13; HW 1 is already available). Assignments will be accepted until
10 am on the due date (or the beginning of lecture if the assignment is not given in
ARIS); late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Lecture Notes
I will be using a mix of Powerpoint and blackboard to present material; I will provide
student versions of the Powerpoint notes. These available notes have key points missing
as I believe that seeing and writing key information will help you retain material better.
Powerpoint slides will be posted to Moodle. You are required to take your own notes. If
you miss class, it is your responsibility to fill in missing information; I will not post or
provide any notes (other than those discussed above) or problems worked out.

Math
Math will be an essential tool for this class. In particular, algebra, logarithms/antilogs
and working with graphs will be important at various times. Keep in mind that if you
have to learn both math and chemistry at the same time, both will seem more difficult. It
will therefore benefit you to have a realistic appraisal of your skills in these areas, and if
necessary to practice and/or get help with any math topics you might struggle with
(before you need them for this class). I will be more than happy to help outside of class if
you would like, but there will not be time to cover math topics in lecture.
Keep in mind that math is far more than plugging numbers into a calculator. Mathematical equations are the common language that scientists use to express scientific concepts. I will often present new mathematical concepts in class with example problems which do not require calculators at all to solve; after all, the problem solving process, not the numbers specific to one particular problem, is what’s important.

**General Expectations**

1) **I will try to treat every student with respect.** In return, I expect each student to treat me and all of his/her fellow students with respect. This includes not talking during lecture or when others are speaking. For my part, I will start and finish class on time.

2) **All mobile devices are to be turned off during lecture.** There is nothing more distracting than a phone ringing during class or a nearby person constantly texting. All devices should be turned off, not just set to silent or vibrate.

3) **I expect you to be honest,** as per the personal code of conduct each GAC student is required to sign when registering for classes (see summary of this code below). I am okay with working on labs and/or homework assignments in groups—in fact, I strongly encourage it. However, there is a vast difference between working as a group and one or two people doing all of the work for a group. When doing group work, everyone in the group should contribute and understand any problem(s) being discussed; when doing lab work, each person should use his/her own data. If you have any questions/concerns about the propriety of a particular aspect of working with your fellow students, please do not hesitate to discuss it with me.

**Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances.** Anyone caught cheating will receive an automatic grade of zero for the assignment/lab/quiz/exam in question, and that score can not be dropped. A second offence will result in the student’s immediate removal from the course with an automatic F grade.

4) **Calculators:** You will need a scientific calculator to complete homework and lab assignments. In my experience, students are often unfamiliar with their calculators (especially the more powerful graphing calculators). If that is the case, and you would like some help ask me or your peer mentor for help during office hours. Also, storing information in a graphing calculator for the purpose of using it on a quiz or exam is no different than bringing a crib sheet to class, and therefore constitutes academic dishonesty. I reserve the right to check calculators for such stored information; if I find you have used your calculator in this way, I will immediately (and permanently) confiscate your calculator and you will receive a 0 for the quiz or exam in question.

5) **If you ever have questions, ask!** Ask me about anything! If I cannot answer them myself, I will try to point you to someone who can.

**Gustavus Honor Code:**

Gustavus has adopted an honor code. Each of you is required to abide by the following pledge: "As a community of scholars, the faculty and students of Gustavus Adolphus College have formulated an academic honesty policy and honor code system, which is printed in the Academic Bulletin and in the Gustavus Guide. As a student at Gustavus Adolphus College I agree to uphold the honor code. This means that I will abide by the academic honesty policy, and abide by decisions of the joint student/faculty Honor Board.”
Board." Pledge: “On my honor, I pledge that I have not given, received, or tolerated others use of unauthorized aid in completing this work.” The penalty for not adhering to the honor code will range from taking a zero on the particular piece of work in question to referral to the honor board depending on the circumstances.

**Disability Services**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) work together to ensure ‘reasonable accommodation’ and non-discrimination for students with disabilities in higher education. A student who has a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, learning, or attentional disability that may have an effect on the student’s ability to complete assigned course work should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Advising Center, who will review the concerns and decide with the student what accommodations are necessary. Disability Services Coordinator Laurie Bickett (lbickett@gustavus.edu or x6286) can provide further information.
Tips for Success

1) Do not wait until the night before a quiz or exam to study. We will be covering a large amount of material, and it will be increasingly hard to catch up if you fall behind. Chemistry is much easier to learn a bit at a time, because it continually builds on itself. The course may seem easy at the beginning if you have had chemistry before; however, this class builds quickly so I recommend starting with good study habits.

2) Keep up with the reading, homework, and lab. To succeed in this class, it is essential to come to class and lab, keep up with the reading and the homework and to really, honestly work through all the problems on your own. Following along in class as problems are worked is not enough. The even-numbered problems in the chapter can be another good source of practice problems!

2) Do the homework. The homework assignments are meant to help you keep pace with the lecture material and avoid falling behind. In addition, doing the homework should be a reliable way of boosting your course grade.

3) When reading the textbook, re-read any passages which you do not understand. If you see a word you do not know, look it up in a dictionary. It can also very helpful to write a summary of material you have just finished reading.

4) Take good notes. Your notes should be your primary resource when studying for an exam. Your peer mentoring groups will provide you tips and ideas on how to take good notes, and I am willing to read through your notes once to provide additional tips/advice. Note that I will not test you on any material which I do not cover in lecture.

5) Learn who your classmates are and form study groups. Science is often best learned and done in groups, not by individuals. Again, your peer mentoring groups will provide tips for forming and studying with a group of people. You may choose to use the peer mentor groups as your study group, but they will most likely have different instructors than you do, so you may find it more beneficial to work with your classmates.

6) Remember: the amount of chemistry a student learns usually depends on the amount of quality time he/she spends trying to learn it!

7) IF YOU DON’T KNOW SOMETHING, ASK!!!! Most chemistry students encounter difficulties with the course material from time to time, even those who have earned an A in their high school chemistry class. Ask questions in class! If you have a question, it is likely that someone else in the class has the same question and will be grateful that you asked. I am also happy to spend time with you outside of class to make sure you understand the course material.

Additional Resources:
There are chemistry tutors who meet Sunday-Thursday nights in Nobel 305.

I will post lots of things on Moodle over the course of the semester. If you are looking for an item (a handout, answers to suggested problems, etc.), try looking there. If you still can not find what you need, let me know and I will try to help.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>9/8 Introduction/Ch 1</td>
<td>9/9 Ch 1</td>
<td>9/10 Ch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13 Ch 2</td>
<td>9/14 HWK 1 Due</td>
<td>9/15 Ch 2</td>
<td>9/16 Ch 2</td>
<td>9/17 Ch 2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/20 Ch 3</td>
<td>9/21 HWK 2 Due</td>
<td>9/22 Ch 3</td>
<td>9/23 Ch 3</td>
<td>9/24 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27 Ch 4</td>
<td>9/28 HWK 3 Due</td>
<td>9/29 Ch 4/13.3</td>
<td>9/30 Ch 4/13.3</td>
<td>10/1 Exam 1: Ch 1,-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4 Ch 5</td>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>106 Nobel Conference</td>
<td>10/7 Ch 5</td>
<td>10/8 Ch 6, 18.1-18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11 Ch 6, 18.1-18.5</td>
<td>10/12 HWK 4 Due</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>10/14 Ch 6, 18.1-18.5</td>
<td>10/15 Ch 6, 18.1-18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18 Ch 7</td>
<td>10/19 HWK 5 Due</td>
<td>10/20 Ch 7</td>
<td>10/21 Ch 7</td>
<td>10/22 Ch 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25 Reading Day</td>
<td>10/26 HWK 6 Due</td>
<td>10/27 Ch 8</td>
<td>10/28 Exam 2: Ch 5-8, 18 (1-5)</td>
<td>10/29 Ch 9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1 Ch 9/10</td>
<td>11/2 HWK 7 Due</td>
<td>11/3 Ch 9/10</td>
<td>11/4 Ch 9/10</td>
<td>11/5 Ch 9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8 Ch 10/12</td>
<td>11/9 HWK 8 Due</td>
<td>11/10 Quiz: Ch 9-10</td>
<td>11/11 Ch 12/13</td>
<td>11/12 Ch 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15 Ch 14</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>11/17 Ch 14</td>
<td>11/18 Ch 15, Ch 18.6</td>
<td>11/19 Ch 15, Ch 18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22 HWK 9 Due; Exam 3: Ch 9, 10, 12-14</td>
<td>11/23</td>
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<td>11/24-11/26 Thanksgiving Break</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29 Ch 15, Ch 18.6</td>
<td>11/30 HWK 10 Due</td>
<td>12/1 Ch 15, Ch 18.6</td>
<td>12/2 Ch 16</td>
<td>12/3 Ch 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6 Ch 16</td>
<td>12/7 HWK 11 Due</td>
<td>12/8 Ch 17</td>
<td>12/9 Ch 17</td>
<td>12/10 HWK 12 Due; Exam 4: Ch 14-17</td>
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<td>12/13 Final Review</td>
<td>Final Exam: Monday Dec 20, 10:30-12:30 in our classroom</td>
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