Course Information  
Chemistry 201: Organic Problem Solving I  
Fall 2012

Course: Chemistry 201 meets:  
Section 001: Thursday 1:00 – 1:50 p.m., Room BA 346  
Section 002: Friday 1:00 – 1:50 p.m., Room BA 340

Instructor: Stephen D. Starnes  
Office: Science 339

Office Hours: M-F 11:00 am-noon

Contact Information: 903-886-5389, Stephen.starnes@tamuc.edu

Text: None required

Grading

Your course grade will be based on your attendance (80%) and participation in class (20%).

There are 14 class days in the semester.

Assuming full participation on your part, grades will be assigned as follows:
A: Attend 13 of the 14 class periods and fully participate in solving assigned problems.
B: Attend 11 of the 14 class periods and fully participate in solving assigned problems.
C: Attend 10 of the 14 class periods and fully participate in solving assigned problems.
D: Attend 8 of the 14 class periods and fully participate in solving assigned problems.
F: Attend 7 or fewer of the 14 class periods.

There will be absolutely no make-ups for missed class attendance. If you fail to sign the attendance sheet for a class period, you will be counted as absent even if you were in class that day; the sign-in sheet is the official record of your attendance in class. If you miss class on Monday, you can attend Tuesday’s class if you provide me prior notification. If you miss Tuesday’s class time, it will not be possible to make up the absence unless you know ahead of time that you will be absent in which case you can attend the Monday class of that same week if you provide me prior notification.

Your attendance grade is not based on you simply showing up to class. To receive attendance for the class period you must meet the following requirements:

1. You cannot be more than 5 minutes late to class or leave class early without consent of the instructor. Missing more than 5 minutes of class time will equate to a non-attendance for that day.
2. You must participate in the class or group discussion. Non-participation will equate to a non-attendance for that day.
3. Disorderly conduct will equate to a non-attendance for that day.
4. Your group must work diligently to complete the lesson for that day. If your group does not work diligently to complete the lesson you will receive a non-attendance for that day.
5. You may not work on material from another class. If you do, you will receive a non-attendance for that day.
The last drop date for the course is November 1, 2012. Incomplete grades may be given only if the student has a current average $\geq 70\%$ and is precluded from completion of the course by a documented illness or family crisis.

**Learning Outcomes / Course Objectives**

The intent of the course is for you to work in small groups to complete the lesson for that day. You will be required to work in groups of 3-4 students. Groups of less than 3 students or more than 4 students will not be allowed. I may change the groups periodically. You are expected to work together as a team to answer the questions posed in the lesson. Thus, you are highly encouraged and expected to discuss, with your group members, the lesson and the answers to the questions posed. The instructor for the course is not present to answer the questions for you. Rather, the instructor is present to guide you in your learning efforts. This has proven to be an effective way to learn Chemistry; we will be using methods similar to a National Science Foundation sponsored program called POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning, www.pogil.org). Learning outcomes for the course include:

1. Students completing the course will be better equipped to work in a team environment to solve scientific problems. The teamwork in this course will improve:
   A. communication skills and leadership skills
   B. problem solving abilities
   C. problem solving strategies.

2. Students completing the course will better understand the course content of Chemistry 211, which should significantly improve student performance in Chemistry 211.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:** All students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and attendance will be recorded. The Department of Chemistry adheres to the attendance policy set by the University as stated in the most current Undergraduate Catalog. Being late by more than 5 minutes is equivalent to missing a class period. Excessive absence is defined as missing more than 10% of the class periods without excusable reasons. Excessive absence will be reported to the Dean of the College and the Dean of Students. In addition, according to the TAMU-Commerce Procedure A13.02., good class attendance will be necessary in order to pass the course. If you have excessive absences, you may be dropped from the course.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Disorderly conduct which interferes with the normal classroom atmosphere will not be tolerated. The classroom instructor is the judge of such behavior and may instruct a disorderly student to leave the room with an unexcused absence or in more serious situations a student may be removed from the class with a failing grade.

**CHEATING AND OTHER BREACHES OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT:** Academic cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct may result in removal of the student from class with a failing grade or may in extreme cases result in suspension or expulsion from the University as described in the “Code of Student Conduct” section of the “Student’s Guidebook”.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu