



Houston Community College Distance Education
CHEM 1405 – Introductory Chemistry I with Lab
Class Number 14361
Fall, 2009

Welcome to Distance Ed chemistry! My name is Steve Dessens and I will be your instructor for this class. CHEM 1405 is intended for students who have little or no prior knowledge of chemistry who are interested in taking chemistry as a science elective or who need a chemistry class with lab as a prerequisite for programs such as nursing or other health professions. This course is also intended to prepare students new to chemistry for General Chemistry (CHEM 1411) if their curriculum requires higher level chemistry classes.

Since the lab experiments will be conducted in person (Fridays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the West Loop campus) this course is not fully “distance” in its format. In the lab you can freely ask questions about the material, but the Blackboard site will have discussion threads for each chapter which I encourage everyone to post to when you need help OR when you can GIVE help on a posted question.

Following are a few suggestions as you begin your online chemistry “adventure.” 😊

Orientation

I would urge you to take the “Student Orientation” if you have not done so already. This will help you familiarize yourself with the Blackboard environment, and in turn, you’ll be able to better focus on learning chemistry.

Email and Communication

Please check your email and any announcements on Blackboard when you log in; at least twice a week is recommended. These will contain information pertaining to the course, assignments, due dates and any changes that might be made to the site.

Weekly Activities

Attendance is done by logging in to the Blackboard website at least once a week.

Participation is performed and graded through answering posted Discussion Questions or replying to classmates within the proper threads.

Learning Modules contain each week's readings, assignments, and exams, if any.

These are the most important component of the online resources. They follow a timeline to allow you to master the current chapter and be prepared for the next one.

Homework: I will be posting short chapter quizzes for some extra credit. Assignments and quizzes will be available for a limited time, so don't miss them! Practice quizzes by chapter are also available on the textbook publisher's website.

Reading and Chapter Problems: Make good use of your textbook. For this course we are using *Introductory Chemistry, Concepts and Connections, Fifth Edition*, by Charles H. Corwin. You are also responsible for working the practice problems at the end of each chapter. Working on these problems is essential to acquiring a better understanding of the chemistry concepts and will help you prepare for the exams.

Exams

Exams will be taken online and will have a time limit. They are closed book exams, so please make all efforts to answer honestly.

I want to wish everyone a great semester! Remember, the keys to success in a chemistry class are, 1) work on the chapter practice problems *every day or so*, and, 2) don't wait until the last minute to do these! Learning chemistry takes time and effort, but you will be rewarded with the satisfaction gained from mastering the basics of this complex and relevant subject. I look forward to working with you this fall.



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