



**Houston Community College Distance Education**  
**CHEM 1405 – Introductory Chemistry I with Lab**  
**Class Number 69726**  
***Second Start, Spring 2011***

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, this course is not fully “distance” in its format. In the lab you can freely ask questions about the material, and before starting the experiment I will review the main topics of the week's chapter.

The Blackboard site includes 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

The **Weekly Schedule**, found on the course's home page on Blackboard, lists each week's textbook chapter, lab experiment, and exam (if any).

**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.

**Homework:** Besides the end-of-chapter questions and problems, practice quizzes by chapter are 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 Critical Thinking, Sixth Edition*, by Charles H. Corwin (custom published HCC version). You are 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 & Labs

Three regular exams will be taken online (from home) and will have a time limit. They are intended to be closed book exams, so please make every effort to answer honestly. The final exam will be given in person on the lab day (Friday) during Finals Week.

I will also periodically give you a chapter quiz, very short, just a few questions. The purpose of these is more to nudge you to stay caught up with the material rather than test you extensively. I will let you know ahead of time, and may give the quiz on Blackboard or in person on a lab day.

The labs are scheduled on Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Alief campus. The experiments will be provided in the form of handouts that you can obtain online.

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 spring.



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