Chemistry 110: Elements of General Chemistry  
Rio Hondo College, Fall 2006  
Instructor: Mr. Matt Koutoulis  

Electronic Mail: mkoutoulis@riohondo.edu  (Email is the best way to reach me)  
Course Web Page: http://faculty.riohondo.edu/mkoutoulis/  
Office Hours: Mon./Wed.: 8:45-9:30am and 4:55-5:25pm. Tue./Thu.: 7:30-8:00 am.  My office is Room S320B and my office phone number is (562) 692-0921 ext. 3690.  
Textbooks: Essentials of General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry by S. Stoker  
Required Laboratory Textbook and Materials: Catalyst Laboratory Manual; a scientific calculator; Safety Goggles (Safety glasses are not acceptable).  

Course Description: Chemistry 110 is an elementary course in chemistry open to all students.  No prior background in chemistry is required. Chemistry 110 is a survey of the principles of general chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry. It satisfies the requirements for Nursing and Allied Health Science majors.  

Prerequisites: Math 50, English 35, and Reading 23 or a more advanced course. Concurrent enrollment in Math 70 is recommended for those students who have not already taken it.  

Grading: Grades are based on the following items: three midterm examinations (55%), a final examination (20%), quizzes and homework (5%), and laboratory (20%). I will use the following scale in assigning grades:  
A: 90-100%  B: 80-89%  C: 70-79%  D: 60-69%  F: <59%.  
It is unlikely that I will curve any grades. In order to pass the class with a grade of “C” or higher, each of the following requirements must be met:  
- You must not earn a score of 49% or lower on more than one exam,  
- You must take the final examination, and  
- You must earn at least 65% of the total points in the laboratory portion of the course.  

Examinations: Three examinations will be given over the course of the semester. Please note that none of these scores will be dropped. It is rarely possible to make-up a missed exam. Alternative arrangements may be made in cases where outstanding circumstances are present (severe illness, etc.), but must be approved by me in advance. Examination dates are indicated on the lecture schedule. Students are not allowed to use any kind of English-translation aids, electronic or otherwise, during examinations.  

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given during discussion sections as well as during the lecture. These will usually be announced in advance, but occasional “surprise” quizzes may be given. Missed quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstance, excused or otherwise.  

Final Examination: The final exam will be comprehensive. You must take the final examination at this time; alternative arrangements will only be made in cases of serious injury to yourself or death in the immediate family. No other excuses will be accepted, including vacation travel, family commitments, etc. Please consider taking this course at a later date if you anticipate a conflict with the final. The exam will be given from Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 4:45-6:45 pm; note the early exam time.
**Attendance:** Attendance may be taken for all lecture, laboratory, and discussion sessions. Students missing multiple lectures without documented excuses (such as a doctor’s note) may be dropped from the class. Students failing to complete two or more laboratory reports may be dropped from the class or given a failing grade if past the deadline. Students who miss an exam and do not contact me immediately (within three school days) to discuss this may be dropped.

**Discussion Sections:** You must attend the discussion section in which you are officially enrolled. Please seek my permission in advance if you should need to attend a different section on a given week. At the end of the semester, extra credit points (added to the examination total) will be awarded to students who regularly attend their discussion section as follows:

- 0 Missed Discussions: +10 points
- 1 Missed Discussion: +5 points

**Homework:** A list of homework problems from the textbook will be given out. These will be graded largely on demonstrated effort. The solutions to many questions are in the back of the textbook. You must show your work where appropriate to receive full credit; merely listing answers will not earn any credit. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Laboratory:** Your laboratory grade will include scores on several lab reports and exercises. Your grade will be given to me by your lab instructor at the end of the semester. Safety rules will be strongly enforced in this class. Students who continue to demonstrate negligent behavior (not wearing appropriately safe equipment/attire, etc.) towards themselves or others will be warned and eventually suspended from the class, with further incidents leading to expulsion with a “W” or “F” (if past the drop deadline). Students arriving more than five minutes after the lab begins may not be allowed to begin the experiment at the instructor’s option.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating in Chemistry 110 will result in severe consequences. Any student found copying another’s work on an assignment will receive no credit for that assignment. The same penalty applies to a student who allows another to cheat off of them. If this should happen more than once, the student will receive a grade of “F” in the class and the student will be referred to the Dean. Any student who cheats on an examination will receive a grade of zero on that examination and will be referred to the Dean. For clarification: if you are working with a lab partner you will both have the same data and should have the same numerical results; this is not cheating. However, your responses to any questions in the lab reports or any explanations must be your own; copying these responses does constitute cheating.

**Keys to Success in Chemistry 110:**
1. Never allow yourself to get behind in this class; the fast pace of this course makes it almost impossible to catch up!
2. Always attend all lectures, discussions, and laboratory classes.
3. Devote at least 15 hours of study time per week (3 hours/unit) to this course; this is in addition to the time you spend in class and laboratory.
4. Complete all homework diligently and completely. Do not take “shortcuts”.
5. Come see me immediately if you are having difficulty with a particular aspect of the course. It is much easier to improve your grade early in the semester than it is towards the end.