Chemistry 120: Introduction to Chemistry
Rio Hondo College, Fall 2006
Instructor: Mr. Matt Koutroulis

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Course Web Page: http://faculty.riohondo.edu/mkoutroulis/
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: Foundations of College Chemistry, 11th Ed., by Hein & Arena

Course Description: This course is a one-semester lab science designed for students intending to major in science or engineering. The primary purpose of the course is to prepare students to enter General Chemistry (Chem 130 and 131). It also fulfills the requirement for general education. This course introduces the fundamental principles of general chemistry, with emphasis on chemical nomenclature and mathematical/quantitative applications.

Prerequisite: Math 70 (Intermediate Algebra) or equivalent

Grading: Grades are based on the following items: three midterm examinations (45%); a final examination (20%); laboratory reports (20%); and homework, computer-based assignments, and quizzes (15%). I will use the following grading scale in assigning grades:

A: 90-100%  B: 80-89%  C: 70-79%  D: 60-69%  F: <59%

I may, at my option, adjust the requirements for a grade to a lower percentage, based on review of the performance of the entire class at the end of the semester (curving). However, so long as you are in a particular percentage range, you will not receive any grade lower than the one which corresponds to your point total (unless you do not pass the lab or do not take the final examination). In order to pass the class with a grade of “C” or higher, each of the following requirements must be met:

- You must take the final examination,
- Your average exam score (for Exams 1 to 3) must be at least 68%, and
- You must score at least 68% or greater on the laboratory portion of the course.

Examinations: Three examinations will be given over the course of the semester which each make up 15% of your final grade. 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. Contact me immediately if you should accidentally miss an exam. Students are not allowed to use any kind of English-translation aids, electronic or otherwise, during examinations.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given occasionally. These may be administered during the discussion section or the lecture. Missed quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances.
Final Examination: The final examination will be given on Thursday, December 14, from 8:05 am to 10:00 am. The 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. If you foresee any problems of this nature then please consider taking this course at a later date or in the evening. Please let me know immediately if this exam date conflicts with that of another final exam.

Attendance: Attendance may be taken for any 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 will be dropped from the class or given a failing grade if past the drop deadline. Students who miss more than two discussion sections may also be dropped at my discretion.

Homework: A list of homework problems from the textbook will be given out. These assignments will not be collected, but their completion is essential for success in this class. Several of the homework assignments you will receive this semester will be web-based. You will have the opportunity to work on some of these assignments during the discussion period as well as at home (if you have computer access). Other facilities exist on campus that should facilitate your completion of these assignments.

Laboratory: Your laboratory grade will include scores on multiple lab reports/exercises, usually worth ten points each. The report is due at the end of the lab period in which the experiment is performed unless stated otherwise (sometimes you will be given until the following class session). Lab reports turned in late (up to two days) will receive half-credit; after this time they are not accepted. 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). I may deduct points from students who violate the safety rules or do not clean up their benchtop after completing an experiment. Students arriving more than five minutes after the lab begins may not be allowed to begin the experiment.

Academic Honesty: Cheating in Chemistry 120 will result in dire consequences. Any student found copying another’s work on an assignment will receive no credit for that assignment. The same penalty applies for 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 division dean for discipline. Any student who cheats on an examination will receive a zero on that exam and will be referred to the division dean.

Important Dates for Fall, 2006
- Last day to add courses: Wednesday, Sept. 6
- Last day to drop courses without receiving a “W”: Thursday, Sept. 28
- Last day to drop courses with a “W” grade: Friday, Nov. 17

Best Wishes for a Successful Semester!