Chemistry 101: Chemistry and Our World  
Rio Hondo College, Spring 2005  
Instructor: Mr. Matt Koutroulis

Electronic Mail: mkoutroulis@riohondo.edu (Email is the best way to reach me)  
Course Web Page: http://faculty.riohondo.edu/mkoutroulis/  
Office Hours: Mondays: 10:15-11:15 am, 4:20-4:50pm/Tuesdays: 10:15-11:15 am/  
Wednesdays: 4:20-4:50pm in Room S320B  
Office Phone: (562) 692-0921 ext. 3690  
Textbook: *Chemistry in Your Life* by Colin Baird and Wendy Gloffke (required)  
Other Materials: A scientific calculator is strongly recommended. I especially recommend the TI-30X IIS scientific calculator (available at the bookstore, Target, Fry’s, Walmart, etc.)

Course Description: This course explores the properties and reactions of matter, focusing on chemical applications of social concern. Students will investigate elementary principles of chemistry, including chemical and physical properties of the elements, the states of matter, nomenclature, basic atomic theory, acids and bases, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Supplementary topics may be selected from topics of current social interest, including air and water pollution; chemical, nuclear and alternative energy sources; chemical and biological warfare; chemistry and the law; and the pharmaceutical industry and drug design. Emphasis will be placed on the construction of effective and informed arguments, both verbal and written. The content of this course is oriented to the non-science major, and mathematical content will be presented at a basic level.

Prerequisites: Reading 023 or equivalent (English 101 is highly recommended; placement in Math 50 or higher is also recommended)

Grading: Grades are based on the following items: four examinations (400 points) and three article review assignments (45 points). I may also add other assignments as the course progresses, but they should not affect the point total by more than 10%. I will use the following scale in assigning grades:

- A: 90-100%  
- B: 80-89%  
- C: 65-79%  
- D: 55-64%  
- F: <54%

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 and you meet the requirements below. The total number of points in the course may adjust slightly upwards or downwards, but should not change by much.

Examinations: Four examinations will be given over the course of the semester worth 100 points each. The first three examinations will be given during the semester, while the fourth examination will be given on the day assigned for final examinations. 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.
**Final Examination:** The final examination will be partially cumulative, containing both old (Exam 1- Exam 3) material and new material. The final examination is scheduled on **Thursday May 12 from 11:30am to 1:30pm.**

**Attendance:** Attendance may be taken for all lecture sessions. Students missing multiple lectures without documented excuses (such as a doctor's note) may be dropped from the class or given a failing grade. Remember that at Rio Hondo College it is your responsibility to drop classes; instructors have the ability to drop you but are not required to do so.

**Homework:** A list of homework problems from the textbook will be given out. Completion of homework problems will help you to prepare for examinations and quizzes. I do not anticipate collecting these assignments.

**Article Assignments:** Three article review assignments (15 points each) will be assigned. The format and requirements for these will be specified later in the course. Due dates for each of these are indicated on the course schedule.

**Extra Credit:** You may earn up to 30 points of extra credit by completing two additional article assignments. The due dates for these are indicated on the schedule. These will be graded in the same way as the standard article assignments.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating in Chemistry 101 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 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 Dean. Any student who cheats on an examination will receive an “F” in the class and will be referred to the Dean.

**Keys to Success in Chemistry 101:**
1. Do not allow yourself to get behind in this class.
2. Devote from 6-9 hours of study time per week (2-3 hours/unit) to this course; this is in addition to the time you spend in class.
3. Spread out your study time; cramming does not usually work well in this class.
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.
6. Complete both of the extra credit assignments.

*Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable semester!*