

AP Chemistry

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to cover the concepts and teach the skills necessary for you to master those principles. We will use the AP Chemistry exam as a benchmark to measure the success of our goals. There are two sections to the exam: Section I consists of 75 multiple-choice questions and section II which consists of 6 free-response questions. Since the course is designed to be equivalent to a general chemistry taken in college and the test is given in May, we cover a lot of material in less than a school year. There will be little time in class to work on lab write-ups, homework, or to study.

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry with a B or better, completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2/Trig., and an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Course Structure:

Text Chemistry: the Central Science by Brown, Lemay and Bursten

This is a college level chemistry textbook. Students read the assigned chapters carefully and complete all the practice problems assigned. Most of the problems that are assigned have answers in the back of the book.

Homework

As well as assigning practice problems from the text, we supplement the text materials with many worksheets and problem sets. For all chapters you will be provided a Study Guide to help students focus on the important ideas. However, these study guides, worksheets, and problem sets will not be graded, nor will students earn points toward their final grade by completing them. Instead students should view this written work as a tool to assist in understanding the material covered.

Labs

We will complete many labs this year at least one a week. Unlike the other homework, these lab write-ups will be graded. These labs are designed to emphasize the concepts we are learning and are good practice for the free-response section of the AP test.

Grading

Grades will be determined based on the total number of points that you earn on tests and lab reports. About 80% of the grade is determined from the tests and the other 20% from labs.

Tips for Success (After polling current AP Chemistry students)

- Grades on tests rather than overall grades in Math and Science courses better indicate performance in AP Chemistry.
- Most students spend on average about 1 hour per night on homework, more time on days close to due days of labs and tests.

