Chemistry I 2010-2011 Mrs. DePalatis

Chemistry I Goals and Objectives

Course Content:

Chemistry I is a first year chemistry class and a prerequisite to AP Chemistry. I find it to be a fascinating subject loaded with practical applications, especially for people who like to understand and control the world they find themselves in. We will follow, as closely as I can manage, the ASD course description for Chemistry I. The textbook for this class is Modern Chemistry, published in 1999 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (Cost: $60.00. Don't lose it.) As we move through this book we will be covering atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, chemical bonding, reactions and equations, stoichiometry, characteristics of gases, liquids, and solids, solutions (including acids and bases) and gas laws.

Methods:

The course content will be presented mainly through lectures, demonstrations, class discussions, readings from the text, assignments, and labs.

Course Requirements:

•A **calculator** with exponent, log, and anti log keys. If you have a graphing or otherwise specialized calculator, make sure you know how to use it! Your calculator should be brought to class every day unless I tell you otherwise. NOTE: Graphing and other programmable calculators will not be allowed for tests. I recommend you get a **non programmable scientific calculator** for use in this class.
• A **binder or folder** for notes, finished homework assignments, and completed tests and quizzes. This will be your lifeline for remembering the material we've covered in class and should also be brought to class every day. Also, don't forget **a pencil or a pen.**
• An inquisitive, focused **mind**.
• Your **textbook**, kept somewhere at home or in your locker where you can find it easily. You will be using it mainly as a backup resource for the material covered in class except for the rare occasion that I ask you to bring it to class.

Grading:

Grading is based on the following somewhat normal scale:

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

Note: I do round scores to the nearest whole number according to the standard rounding rules, so 89.5% would count as an A but 89.4% would be a B.

The grading is weighted as follows:

Homework and Labs:	35% of the overall grade
Quizzes and Tests:	55% of the overall grade
Semester Final Exam	10% of the overall grade

My Web Site:
Assignments, and all sorts of things can be checked on line. Go to
http://web.acsalaska.net/~ray.depalatis

Make-Up Work:

You the student are responsible for all of the material covered in class and in the readings, whether you're in class or not. **Make up work and knowledge is absolutely the student's responsibility**. If you are absent for any reason there are a few things you should do:
1. Call a friend who's in the class to find out what happened (exchanging phone numbers with someone in the class is a good idea).
2. Check my web site to see what you missed (**http://web.acsalaska.net/~ray.depalatis**). You will often be able to download the assignment, use the book to figure out how to do the assignment, and turn it in when you come back to class!
3. See me for make-up work after class or during lunch.

According to the student handbook, you are allowed as many days to make up the work as you were absent. (For example, if you are absent for three days, you have three days from the day you return to school to turn in the missing assignments.) Since we often cover a lot of material that builds on itself, you don't want get behind. Try to get as much work done while you're gone as possible.

If you are absent on the day of a test expect to take the test the day you return to class unless you make other arrangements with me ahead of time. (E-mail me while you're gone!)

Extra Credit:
Extra credit will be assigned (rarely) in conjunction with various assignments. No extra credit projects that have not been announced in class will be assigned or accepted.

Safety in the Laboratory:
Labs are the best part of this course. In order to have labs, and few requirements must be followed:
1. Do not perform any experiments that are not authorized by the teacher.
2. Follow all instructions carefully and thoughtfully.
3. Refusing to wear safety goggles when required will disqualify you from the lab.
4. No food or drink should ever be taken to the lab stations.
5. No horse play will be tolerated in the classroom or lab stations. There are simply too many breakable and potentially hazardous materials in the room. Keep a businesslike attitude at at all times.

Formal Lab Write-Ups: These will be assigned periodically and must be typed. If you anticipate any difficulties with this please see me to arrange for computer time. (You can use the computer in my room during lunch or before or after school if necessary.)

Food and Drink? Food is not allowed in class unless we make it ourselves or I bring it in. Drinks are fine as long as you throw away your bottles and clean up any spills.

Need Help? If you need some extra help with any of the material, please arrange to meet with me before or after school or during lunch. I may also have a list of students who did well in my chem class last year who are willing to be contacted to tutor this year's students. Student tutors usually charge $10 per hour and can be hired by the half hour. See me for details.

E-mail: My e-mail address is *Depalatis_Laurel@asdk12.org* . I usually check my e-mail during the day and in the evenings at home. It is the best way for you or your parents to contact me.

I'm delighted to be teaching here at South. I hope you have a great year in Chemistry I!

Sincerely,
-Mrs. Laurel DePalatis (pronounced "deep - alot -iss")