**General Chemistry Fall 2025**

Instructor: Chris Buczek Pronounced: Bew-check cbuczek@bsu.edu

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**Office Hours:**

* Monday: 10:15 – 11:45 and 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. until bowling season starts and then I will not have afternoon office hours
* Tuesday: most of the time I will be here all day; however, my availability will vary. I will always send you an email letting you know when I am here. I will title the email "Where is Prof. Buczek?".
* Wednesday: 10:15 – 11:45 and 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
* Thursday- I will be in lab from 8 - 12 and 2 - 6, thus no office hours
* Friday: 10:15 – 11:45 and 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting Times:**

*Per BSU’s Office of Environmental and Health Safety, no gum, candy, drinks, or food are permitted in the lab space.*

*Note: You must attend your scheduled class and lab times unless* ***prior*** *arrangements are made.*

|  |
| --- |
| Lecture |
| 12:00 a.m. MWF |
| 1:00 a.m. MWF |
|  |
| Lab - Thursdays |
| 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.  |
| 10:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. |

**Introduction**

This course is an **introductory** course to chemistry which will cover many different topics in chemistry.  Most of the chapters in this course, excluding chapters one through six, could be turned into a full course of their own!  General Chemistry examines the concepts of the structure of matter, the states of matter, chemical bonding and reaction types, stoichiometry, equilibrium, acid-base theory, kinetics, thermodynamics, oxidation-reduction, and an introduction to organic chemistry. The course emphasizes chemical calculations and the mathematical formulation of principles. Laboratory work emphasizes both qualitative and quantitative experiences and introduces the use of technology in the lab.

\* Ball State University offers 4 college credit hours in CHEM 100 for students who pass both semesters of this course.

**Textbook:** *World of Chemistry, 3rd Edition, Zumdahl and Zumdahl*

**Philosophy**

Learning is NOT a spectator sport.  The ultimate responsibility for success in learning lies with you, the student.  Learning is a process by which a person seeks to make sense out of the world.  The view of the world or any part of it, held by a person is as individual as fingerprints.  The only way we are able to share knowledge is by verbal and written communication.  The quality of the communication depends on the quality of the language used.  A teacher is a facilitator for learning.  The teacher structures experiences which provide the maximum probability that students can make sense out of the material presented.

**Role of the Teacher**

My responsibility is to present experiences that will assist you to make sense out of chemistry.  These experiences can be altered, based on your input, to improve your chances of being successful.  It is imperative that communications are two ways so that we can remain informed about how you view the concepts we are studying.

It is also my responsibility to design tests, quizzes, and lab assessments that fairly evaluate the level of your success.  You have the right to know where you stand at all times during the semester and to ask when you do not understand why you were evaluated in a particular manner.

**Your Role**

You are in control of your success in chemistry.  To some extent your success will be a function of your background, but the major factor in your success will be the quality and quantity of time and effort you put into your studies.  You must keep in mind that 1) your principal job at this stage in your life is to be a student; and 2) chemistry is not the only course you are taking.  You must balance your time such that you maximize success in all courses.  I will provide several vehicles to assist you.  You must elect to use them.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of the Academy.  All students deserve a healthy learning environment and evaluations that are based on their honest independent efforts.  A clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship and learning.

You are encouraged to *form study groups and to problem-solve together*.  The normal expectation is that the work on exams is your own and that homework, take-home quizzes, and lab reports, while discussed with other students, is of your own creation.  Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.  Please refer to the student handbook.

Examples of dishonesty include sharing your work with another student either electronically or on paper (including labs!), using another student’s work to complete your work, and copying answers from the Internet or from the solution manual.  You may use resources to help complete your work; you may not directly use another’s work.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

 *Note: This AI policy statement was developed with assistance from Claude AI as part of a transparent policy creation process. I began by brainstorming key principles and requirements for AI use in my course, then imputed my ideas into Claude AI to help structure and refine my ideas into a comprehensive policy framework. The AI tool helped organize my concepts and suggested clearer language. I subsequently reviewed, edited, and customized the AI-generated draft to align with my specific course requirements and Academy policies. This collaborative approach demonstrates appropriate AI use: leveraging the tool for organization and clarity while maintaining oversight and crediting the work where appropriate.*

Fundamental Requirement:

* All work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else—including AI sources—must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used (see below). Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and I will follow the institution's policy to the letter in those instances.

Important Limitations and Cautions:

* Accuracy Concerns: The material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. AI tools are known to "hallucinate" – creating plausible-sounding but false information, including fabricated citations and statistics.
* Impact on Learning: Overreliance on AI may stifle your own independent thinking and creativity, which are essential skills the Academy wants you to develop.
* Quality Issues: AI-generated content often lacks depth, nuance, and critical analysis expected in academic work.

Prohibited Uses: You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. This includes:

* Copy-pasting AI responses directly into assignments
* Having AI write substantial portions of your work
* Using AI to complete entire assignments, even with minor modifications

Mandatory Citation Requirements: If you include any material generated by an AI program, it must be:

* Properly quoted (using quotation marks for direct text)
* Cited like any other reference material, with due consideration for the questionable quality of the reference (see below for the citation)
* Clearly identified as AI-generated content
* Accompanied by an explanation of how you used these tools in your work (see the paragraph above).
* See the example citation below.

Academic Integrity Enforcement:

* Any plagiarism or other form of cheating, including undisclosed use of AI-generated content, will be dealt with under the Academy’s academic integrity policies. I will follow the Academy’s policy in all cases of academic integrity violations.

Your Responsibility:

* You remain fully responsible for the accuracy, quality, and integrity of all work you submit, regardless of what tools you use in your process. When in doubt about appropriate AI use, consult with me before proceeding.

Citation:

“Create an AI syllabus statement using these two ideas: 1. You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm.  However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic.  Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. 2. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own.  If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor).   Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with severely under relevant”. *Claude Sonnet 4*, 8/6/25, https://claudeai/new

**Ball State University Beneficence Pledge**

## Ball State Beneficence Statue Logo | Ball state university, University ...Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains outstanding faculty, staff, and students. Ball State is committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the varied experiences and worldviews of the people whom we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State’s commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, inclusiveness at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive.

**Email**

* I can be reached at cbuczek@bsu.edu
	+ It is very important to me to respond to your questions or concerns promptly; however, please note that do receive a lot of emails.  If for some reason, I do not respond within 24 hours, please resend your original email and/or leave me a voicemail message (765-285-7456).
	+ Please note that if you email me after ten p.m., it is highly unlikely that I will read that email until sometime the following morning.

**Attendance:**

It is extremely important that you attend ***all*** class periods.  Missing a day can seriously put you behind in this course; however, I do understand that absences happen.  Please adhere to the following guidelines in the event you miss a class. The biggest takeaway from these policies is that I want to work with you, but that work needs to be done outside of class.

**IA Absence Policy**

* Attendance is mandatory. Students may receive excused absences at the professional discretion of the school nurse, the associate director of mental health services, the associate director of college counseling and student engagement, the director of academic affairs, and the executive director of the Indiana Academy. Unexcused absences occur when students miss class without prior approval from the aforementioned designated school officials. Continued absences (both excused and unexcused) from Academy classes increase the likelihood of unsuccessful completion.
* Alongside steady attendance, students are expected to maintain consistent healthy habits of decorum, respect, and kindness towards their classmates, instructors, and teaching assistants. When students fail to meet these classroom behavioral standards and academic habits, it is the expectation faculty engage appropriately to bring quick and immediate resolution. When students consistently fail to meet these behavioral standards and academic habits in the classroom, an administrative consequence ladder will be adopted, and recorded, in attempt to administratively address, engage, and rectify ongoing challenges

**Prearranged Absences:**

* If you are absent for a school scheduled event such as a field trip or a college trip, you are required to turn in your work ***prior*** to the trip *unless* alternate arrangements have been made with me *prior* to your trip.

**Illness/Excused Absences:**

* The work that was due on the day of your absence is expected the day you return.
* Work that is due the day you return is expected within two class periods
* If you need more time, *you need to email me or meet with me during office hours* so we can generate a plan.

**Extended Excused Absences:**

* Extended excused absences require that *you* generate a conversation with me *outside* of class so that we can work out a plan to get you caught up.

**Tardy:**

To understand the definition of tardy, you need to know the expectation for the class.

* *Expectation*: when the clock shows the start time, you need to be ready for class. Your notes are out as well as other supplies (i.e. periodic tables, polyatomic ions list, calculators). Phones must be silenced and placed in your backpack. Headphones cannot be worn in class; they too must be put away.
* I will take attendance and then start class. We have limited time, and we need to take advantage of those precious minutes.
* *Definition of tardy*: you are not ready or present for class when I start talking Chemistry.
* After ten minutes, a tardy will be counted as absent.

**Bathroom Policy**

Don’t laugh, this needs to be stated.

* If you *desperately* need to use the restroom, by all means, let me know that you need to leave.
	+ If you are gone more than ten minutes, I will send a student to check to see if you are ok.
* If you are regularly desperate to use the restroom, I will notify the administration to get you the support you need.

**Unexcused Absence Policy**

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor

* No work will be accepted for an unexcused absence.
* The grade for the assignment that was due the day of the unexcused absence, will be entered as a zero.
* Quizzes and tests will also be entered as a zero if you have an unexcused absence.
* A missed lab due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.

**Make-up Work Policy**

* The absence must be excused
* You must schedule make-up tests and quizzes with me; ideally during my office hours.

**Late Work**

* Late work will not be accepted and will be entered as a zero in the gradebook.
* *Except*:
	+ I know that things will happen in your life that are out of your control, or are traumatic, or you simply forgot. We are human, which means our lives come with a full range of unforeseen circumstances. In the event you have an unfortunate event, here are the steps:
1. Email me as soon as possible that something in your life went sideways and you need an extension. You don’t have to share with me the details, you can if you want, but it is not necessary. I trust your judgement.
	1. Do *not* wait to share with me that things went sideways at the beginning of the class. I am singularly focused on getting class started and I cannot give you the attention you deserve.
2. In the email let me know how much of an extension you need. I will let you know we can agree on the date.
3. *Note*:
	1. If you ask for extensions frequently, we will need to meet to discuss how the Academy can assist you.
	2. I am significantly less willing to extend deadlines for exams. You will need an administrative excused absence.

**Cell phones/Computers/Tablets**

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all portable wireless devices, that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health, safety, and/or well-being.

The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

**What does this mean for you?**

* Cells phones
	+ are not to be used in class.
	+ be put on silent, airplane mode, or turned off.
	+ cannot be used as calculators.
* Computers and/or tablets may be used in class for taking notes.
	+ If you are using a computer/tablet during class for anything outside of the scheduled activity/lecture, you will lose the privilege to use these devices during class as stated in the policy above.
* Occasionally you will need your computer for a lab – you will be given notice when you will need a lab for class.
* Headphones
	+ May not be worn during class. There may be exceptions to this policy for which a rationale cannot be provided due to privacy issues.

**Calculators**

* A TI-84 calculator (or equivalent) will be helpful for this class

**Grade Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Percentage | Letter Grade |
| ≥93 | A |
| 90 - 92 | A- |
| 87 - 89 | B+ |
| 83 – 86 | B |
| 80 – 82 | B- |
| 79 – 77 | C+ |
| 70 - 76 | C |
| 65 - 69 | C- |
| <64 | D\* |

**Grade Weights**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weight | Description |
| 45% | Exams |
| 5% | Laboratory completion |
| 10% | Laboratory quizzes |
| 10% | Quizzes |
| 5% | Polyatomic Ion quizzes |
| 15% | Practice and homework quizzes |
| 10% | Final Exam |
| 100% | Total |

**Exams**

Each semester will have four or five exams plus one final exam\*. You will be able to use a calculator, a periodic table, and the polyatomic ion lists*.* A study guide will be provided for each exam and will be uploaded to Canvas. Each exam is cumulative. The second semester exams will cover material from the first semester.

**Laboratory**

Many of the labs that you will do in class are inquiry-based labs.  If you miss a lab (and it is an excused absence) then you will be required to make up the lab within six days of the missed lab; however, the due date will not change.  You will not be allowed to simply use the data from your lab partner.  Learning laboratory techniques is just as important as learning the concepts behind the labs.

* Lab work cannot not be made up for an unexcused absence.
* 5% for lab completion as evidenced by turning in the required paperwork
* 10% for lab quizzes. These will be given at the start of the following lab day unless otherwise stated.
* Lab work cannot not be made up for an unexcused absence.

*Laboratory dress code*

 Failure to comply with the dress code will result in an unexcused absence as you will not be permitted to participate in the lab. If you have to leave to retrieve appropriate clothing, you will be counted as tardy for the lab. You will have 20 minutes to accomplish this task. If it takes longer than 20 minutes, it will be an unexcused absence. Do not wear your good clothes to the lab.

* Long pants
* Closed-toe shoes
* Long sleeves are preferred, but regular t-shirts are ok. Make sure the sleeves are not dangly.
* No halter tops, tank tops, or any clothing that exposes any part of your abdomen. For safety reasons, you need to be covered.
* Long hair must be tied back and up. You need to eliminate any chance your hair could become part of the lab experiment.
* Goggles must be always worn during the experiment. I have goggles you can use or you are welcome to purchase goggles from Amazon. They are around $10.00.
* Lab aprons must be always worn during the experiment. I have aprons you can use or you are you are welcome to purchase aprons or lab coats from Amazon.

**Polyatomic Ion and Element Symbol Quiz**

Every **Friday** you will have a polyatomic ion and element quiz that will contain a mix of the symbols of the polyatomic ions and elements and the name of the polyatomic ions and elements.  You will have approximately five minutes to complete this quiz.

* If you have accommodations and would like to use them for the quiz, you *must* send an email to Mrs. Drumm or Mrs. Wright, *and include me on the cc line*, to schedule the quiz.
	+ This must be scheduled *prior* to the day of the quiz.
* If you miss a quiz, **you** must schedule a time with me to take the quiz no later than the following Monday or you will earn a zero on the quiz

*Grading:*

* If you earn between 90 – 99% you are in the “cushion zone.”
	+ For example, say on the following week you earn less than 90%, your new score will be calculated per the equation to the right:
	+ If your score is still in the cushion zone, and then the following week you again earn less than 90%, per the equation to the right:
	+ Each successive week that your score is below 90%, the percentage will increase by 10%, until you are out of the cushion zone.
* If you earn consecutive 100’s, then each week 10% will be added.
	+ If you have bonus points, and you earn less than 90% on the following quiz your score will be calculated as follows:   $z-\left(100-y\right)=new score $
	+ Bonus points on individual quizzes are only worth 10% of their face value after the first 10% has been added.

**Chapter Quizzes**

At the end of every chapter, you will have a chapter exam. This will function mostly as a practice test. The study guide for the quiz is on Canvas and is the same study guide as for the test.

**Practice**

Success in chemistry requires consistent practice, just as musicians rehearse before performances and athletes train before games. Regular homework practice will help you excel on exams. Here is how the practice is assessed:

* All of my TA’s have access to the practice problems keys. If you find a TA during their office hours and have your work checked, you will earn 110% on the assignment.
* If you turn in your practice problems without having them checked, your practice will be graded by the TA’s.
* The practice problems earn one third of the possible points in this category.

To ensure you are practicing wisely, every Monday, you'll take a brief homework quiz covering one question from the assigned problems. These quizzes count as two thirds of the possible points in this category. The responsibility for adequate practice rests with you, and trust me—you'll need it to succeed.

Use your resources effectively. You have several personal coaches available to you; this includes me and all of the TA’s. Use us to check your work to ensure you understand different problem-solving approaches.

***Note: you have one week from the time you receive a graded paper to contest the grade. It is your grade, and I welcome the discussion.***

**Lecture Schedule Semester 1**

Chapter 3 – Chemical Foundations: Elements, Atoms, and Ions

Exam #1

Chapter 4 – Nomenclature

Chapter 5 – Measurements and Calculations

Exam #2

Chapter 6 – Chemical Composition

Chapter 7 – Chemical Reactions

Exam #3

Chapter 8 – Reactions in Aqueous Solutions

Chapter 9 – Chemical Quantities

Exam #4 - Final Exam

**Lecture Schedule Semester 2**

Chapter 10 – Thermodynamics

Chapter 13 – Gases

Exam #1

Chapter 12 – Chemical Bonding

Chapter 14 – Liquids and Solids

Exam #2

Chapter 15 – Solutions

Chapter 16 – Acids and Bases

Exam #3

Chapter 17 – Equilibrium

Chapter 18 – Redox Reactions and Electrochemistry

Exam #4

Final Exam