



Dr. Katz's Advanced Chemistry Syllabus Greenhills School 2008 - 2009



My Education Philosophy

This classroom is a place where you can learn and have fun at the same time. It is extremely important to keep a positive attitude during the moments when you feel frustrated. Chemistry can be a difficult subject, but if you practice good study habits you will find it much easier. Patience and a sense of humor are essential. If you are having trouble with concepts, make sure you ask me to clarify the material. It is also important for you to recognize your responsibility in the learning process. Our classroom should be a team effort, both teaching and learning will be important components. Your job is to take notes in class, complete all assigned work on time, and ask questions when you do not understand (I will schedule extra help whenever you need it!).

Course Supply List

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Required Books | Brown, LeMay, & Bursten, Chemistry, The Central Science 10 th Ed (<i>BLB</i>) Laboratory Notebook, bound, duplicate copies - available from GH | | |
| Necessary Materials | One 1½" 3-ring binder loose-leaf notebook paper blue/black pens and/or pencils | highlighter pens scientific calculator lab goggles | |
| Optional Materials | pocket folders | Baron's or Princeton Review | |

Class Rules

All students are expected to follow Greenhills School's (GH) Rules and Regulations. More specifically, you are expected to: come to class on time and be prepared to learn when the bell rings, refrain from eating or drinking in class, clean up your work area before you leave class, never leave the classroom without permission, raise your hand if you have something to say, remain in your seat quietly unless given permission to do otherwise, and let me know if you have a problem, question or concern.

What We'll Cover

I have always listed in this syllabus a detailed description of labs, chapters, tests, and dates of coverage; however, this year is my first year teaching with BLB, and I will be attempting to teach to both non-AP students and students who plan to take the AP exam in May. I also am accustomed to starting school two weeks earlier. This leaves me in a difficult position, as I am forced to modify my curriculum to align with these changes. For now, I have posted on my website (www.chemlecture.com/doc) a tentative plan for how I intend to accomplish our goals. Rest assured, the labs, chapters, tests, and dates of coverage align with the learning outcomes for both the AP curriculum and the non-AP curriculum. The plan is three pages long so I am not including it in this syllabus. As with every class, we need to remain open and flexible to the changes that need to be made.

When You Are Confused

When you are concerned or confused about something relating to Advanced Chemistry, please don't hesitate to ask me. If you are at home and you need to contact me, feel free to call my cell phone as long as it is between the hours of 7:15am and 9:30pm, Monday through Saturday. My cell phone number is 954-270-8864. Please know that if I don't answer, you should leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as I can. If you need an immediate answer, sometimes you might find it on the class webpage www.chemlecture.com/doc. That's also where you'll find general links for all my classes, and a specific link for your class. On your class page you will find your Week-at-a-Glance page (WAG) calendar, Review documents, Introductory Documents, Links, Class Notes, etc. The WAG page changes, OFTEN DAILY, because our class agenda changes to best serve your learning needs. If you find any links not working, please email me (skatz@greenhillsschool.org) and let me know! Of course if your question can wait until the morning, please respect my personal life and resist the urge to call me. Thanks! ☺

General Expectations

1. This will be a seriously challenging class. The bad news: it will require a huge amount of work and dedication. The good news: the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. Case in point: THUS FAR, 99% OF MY FORMER AP

STUDENTS HAVE PASSED THE AP EXAM WITH A SCORE OF 3 OR BETTER! In fact, three years ago 100% of my class earned a 5 on the exam and the two years following that year 100% of my students earned either a 4 or a 5 on the exam. Since GH has removed the AP designation from this course, they have made it clear that they value more than test scores, i.e. depth NOT breadth of coverage. *I am full support of this policy!* I have always encouraged my 3-, 4-, and 5-earners to take “Chemistry 101” in college; those who did found themselves extremely prepared. I, therefore, encourage each of you to attempt the AP Exam in May, and I will run the class as though that is your goal.

2. You should check the WAG page every night and know what to expect every day when you walk into class. Some days this means you should have printed notes or PowerPoints. Other days you will have HW or labs due. Often you will be writing notes into guided notes pre-prepared by me. Sometimes you will be taking notes onto notebook paper. You will have MANY electronic resources this year, including PowerPoints, screencasts, electronic flashcards, e-concept maps, and more. If you do not have a computer at home or access to one, you may want to view these resources at school before you go home the night before. I have gone to great lengths to make sure you have a variety of resources, so PLEASE take advantage of the myriad opportunities to learn.
3. Class participation is an essential component of the learning environment. Each marking period, you may be assessed on your class participation by a subjective evaluation of the following: (1) being prepared, (2) positively contributing to the learning environment, and (3) exhibiting organization and cooperation (following rules). My expectations are:
 - a. You should come prepared!
 - b. You should remain actively engaged
 - c. You should always follow directions
 - d. You should ask “on topic” questions
 - e. You should work cooperatively
 - f. You should clean up your work area

In general, you should avoid the following: Playing calculator games during class, unapproved computer use during class; looking at and or sharing photos during class; writing long letters (short notes to your neighbor are okay); gum, mints, and chewing of any kind (yes, that means no chewing paper or pen caps!); being tardy to class without a pass; being out of your seat (unless instructed to do so); using the hall pass to visit unapproved locations; talking at inappropriate times; drawing on the desk or other forms of disrespect to the classroom; coming to class unprepared (e.g. no pencil or calculator for tests), sleeping in class or placing your head on the desk during class; acting inappropriately (singing, insulting people, verbal outbursts, etc); being disrespectful to classmates in any way; being disrespectful to me in any way; making annoying noises of any kind (e.g. pen clicking and tapping); being a distraction of any kind (loudly shuffling papers during lecture); complaining inappropriately (you may always discuss your concerns in an appropriate fashion...in fact, you are encouraged to do so); being out of dress code in any way; copying other student’s homework from this or any class; working on homework from other classes without permission. (Disclaimer – this list was built over 10 years at previous schools).

Assignments

1. Homework (HW) - Problem sets will be assigned each week to correspond with the chapter we are covering. Due dates will be posted online and in the classroom. Unless otherwise indicated, HW will be graded on percent completion NOT on percent correctness. You will receive 100% on HW if you complete the assignment ON TIME and IN FULL. Answer keys will be available in the classroom for you to use to complete your assignments. HW will be considered **completed in full if it is clear that you 1) showed all work and 2) corrected all errors BEFORE submitting the assignment.** If you encounter problems that you cannot complete, make an effort, and correct them before you submit them. If you do not know how to begin a problem, ask a classmate, get assistance from me, or look at the answer key, but do not leave problems blank or you will not receive full credit.
2. Quizzes/Tests - Quizzes and tests will be given that correspond to the material we are covering. Quizzes are likely to cover a single topic, while tests will tend to be cumulative and cover several chapters at a time. If necessary (usually it is) a class curve may be applied to either type of assessment. These will always be pre-announced assessments.
3. Exams - Cumulative exams will be given in accordance with GH policy. This will most likely be at the end of the second and fourth marking periods. Additional exams may be given but will always be pre-announced.
4. Labs - Labs will be performed during scheduled class periods. You will be required to wear lab goggles during wet lab experiments. Goggles will not be provided for you. Make-up labs may be scheduled at a later time. You will be given a lab report format to follow which will be completed in your **Lab notebook**. Duplicate pages will be submitted as Lab Reports. No additional typed lab report will be required.

Submitting Assignments

1. All assignments should be submitted in person into my INBOX which can be found on my desk in the classroom. No assignment is due before 3:30 pm on the day it is due.

2. **PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (from me and only me) if you are going to submit an assignment via email.** Email is NOT always a reliable method of submitting assignments, so, please do NOT assume just because you sent it that I received it. If you want to be certain an emailed assignment has been received by me, request a receipt email or ask me in person. If I don't receive it, it is considered not submitted. You must always be sure you have a back up plan for when technology fails!
3. Assignments should be submitted with your full name, **ASSIGNMENT NAME**, and date at the TOP, **RIGHT-HAND** corner, unless there is a designated space for this information. No name, no grade!
4. Any assignment that is handwritten should be completed in BLUE or BLACK ink or PENCIL only. A different color pen should be used to correct your HW assignment. It should be clear that you have corrected your assignment by the difference in color. **Other color pens should not be used to complete assignments**, only to grade HW.
5. Labs should be done in your LAB NOTEBOOK in blue or black **PEN** ONLY. Pencil is not acceptable for Lab work.
6. Your work must be legible or it will not be graded.
7. Late assignments may be subject to a 50% grade penalty. Excused absences represent the **ONLY** exception to this rule.
8. Missed work, labs, and tests must be made up in accordance with GH policy. Please note...it is **your responsibility** to obtain **work missed due to absence, regardless of whether it is an excused or unexcused absence! You know you were absent, so you KNOW you missed work!**
9. If you are absent on the day that an assignment is due (or a test is taken), you will be expected to submit the assignment (or take the test) at the beginning of class the next time you attend school. If you sign out of school on the day that an assignment is due, you should submit the assignment **BEFORE** you leave, whether or not you attend my class that day. You may submit the assignment to the Administrative Assistant at the main office.

Determining your grade

Unless there is a GH rule that I don't know about, your grade will be determined as follows: **(total points earned ÷ total points possible) x 100% = your grade**. Your grade will be determined using HW, Quizzes, Tests, Labs, and Class Participation. Your overall grade will be an average of four marking periods, each being weighted as one-fourth of your grade. You may access your grades on Edline, however, should you or your parents wish a grade update at any time, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Other important information

1. Office Hours - This year my official office hours are by appointment because I live 45 min away from school. If I know a student is coming in to see me, I will make sure I am available. In my previous school I was known to hang around well after 6pm, but I think I'll want to head home before dark to be safe. I will definitely be in my classroom during lunch and in my office during my planning periods, F & G. I'm likely to be hanging around between 3:00pm and 3:30pm to help students finish their assignments. If you need to schedule an appointment or a help session with me, please just ask!!! Also, please take advantage of advisory time and don't forget that your classmates are a great resource as well. If you have attempted to get extra help from the above resources but you find that none of these are satisfactory, you could also try a private tutor. Please let me know if you are struggling to find a tutor.
2. Safety in the lab - We will be performing many experiments in this class that pose potential safety risks. The risks will be significantly minimized by using common sense precautions and following the appropriate safety rules. You will be expected to read, learn, and sign a two-page safety contract (found online) before you perform any experiments in my class. Your signature on this safety contract is a promise to me and your classmates that you will take all precautions necessary to keep the lab environment hazard-free. Your parents are also expected to sign the safety contract because it is important that they are aware of the potential risks you may encounter and that you are being tasked with the responsibility of following these safety rules. Please have your parents read and sign both pages after you have read and signed both pages of the contract. Once you and your parents have both read and signed it, please promptly return it to me.
3. This is an optional course - You have chosen to take this course; it is not a required course. If you feel that it is too difficult for you, you should discuss this with me and/or your parents as soon as you start to feel overwhelmed. School is supposed to be challenging, but it is not supposed to ruin your life. I have been teaching for 20 years and I have a good feel for the difference between a student who is in over his or her head and a student who is having "beginning of the year blahs." Please don't feel that you are the only one who ever thought this was a hard class - I assure you, you are not the first, and you will not be the last! Communication is key! Don't be afraid to discuss your concerns with me!

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR! ☺ DOC