

## Honors Chemistry Course Syllabus – 2017/18 Academic Year

This syllabus outlines the expectations students will need to meet in order to be successful in chemistry. This syllabus should be considered as a supplement to FSWC's policies as described in the "Code of Student Conduct." You are responsible for knowing and following these guidelines.



Semester grades will be **numeric-based** (not letter-based): 35% for each quarter and 30% for semester exam. For example: Quarter One = 79.8% (B); Quarter Two = 81.4% (B); Midterm = 70.3% (C)  
Semester One =  $(0.35 \times 79.8) + (0.35 \times 81.4) + (0.30 \times 70.3) = 77.51\%$  (C) \*not B, B, C = B!

**Point Breakdown:** Each quarter grade will be based on the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Quarter One</u>	<u>Quarter Two</u>	<u>Quarter Three</u>	<u>Quarter Four</u>
Tests/Quizzes	50%	60%	70%	80%
Group/Participation	20%	20%	20%	20%
Reflecting	30%	20%	10%	-

A successful chemistry student will not only demonstrate mastery of the material on tests, but also will serve as a meaningful lab partner and significant team player. For this reason, Group/Participation will represent 20% of each quarter grade and will be assessed several ways. Reflecting (i.e. studying homework) is more of an expectation than an assignment completed for a grade. Consequently, this percentage of the grade decreases each quarter until Reflecting is only an expectation in Q4 (more info below).

**Tests and Quizzes:** Chemistry concepts will be separated into 11 Units. Students will be quizzed for understanding as concepts are developed in these units. These quizzes are usually unannounced. Each unit concludes with a test that will assess student understanding of the entire unit. Because we continually build on concepts throughout the year, tests and quizzes will often include pertinent information from previous units. Even though the final examination will emphasize second semester material, it will most certainly be cumulative for the entire year.

**Group/Participation:** This is a lab-based chemistry class that will often require you to work in a group to complete labs efficiently. From this perspective, grading your participation is rather simple: any behavior that cannot be considered as helping the group complete the lab will detract from an individual's participation grade and could potentially hurt a group's quality of work. You are also in groups so that you can help each other develop particle and mathematical models. From this perspective, your group's work will speak for itself (the more thought you display, the higher the grade). More specifically, I will be looking for you to demonstrate deep critical thought, not necessarily "correct" thought. Occasionally, you will need to complete work outside of class so that you arrive prepared to discuss (e.g. "EP" worksheets). These occasions will also be part of your participation grade (see EP rubric). Each group will produce and update weekly an online portfolio (Bulb) that summarizes, relates, and applies the chemistry concepts developed that week. When completed properly, this weekly appraisal will not only help students identify their current strengths and weaknesses, but also it will serve as an invaluable studying tool for tests and semester exams.

**Reflecting:** You will need to reflect on your learning in chemistry because it will help you understand and master the material, and allow you to progress as a student. You will be asked to reflect on each of our labs by completing a handwritten "lab reflection" in a notebook dedicated to chemistry. All reflections are due the next school day following the completion of a lab. More information will be provided in Unit Two.

**Required Materials:** Students are expected to bring the following materials to class EVERYDAY!

- Writing implement (I recommend pencil, but pen is acceptable)
- Sturdy notebook dedicated to chemistry (I recommend a Five Star type notebook)
- Scientific Calculator (TI-30Xa is recommended) Cell phones are NOT calculators!
- Dry Erase Markers (I recommend Expo – Avoid Yellow!)

**Academic Honesty:** To make this class work its best, I encourage you to discuss and process information with friends, family, Google, YouTube, and Wikipedia. At the same time, you must use your own words and give credit where credit is due. Doing so does not reduce the quality or validity of your work; rather, it demonstrates and justifies your understanding. Always play it safe: never plagiarize!

**SID:** To ensure a fair grading policy, please do not use your name on any test or quiz. Instead, use your FSWC Student ID number (SID) as seen in FOCUS. I will never attempt to match your name and SID when grading. You will be deducted points for using anything other than your SID. \*write it on your notebook's cover!

**Late Work:** Students may submit lab reflections one day after the original due date for half of the earned points. The student is responsible for submitting late lab reports. Credit will not be given for reflections submitted more than one day late. Because EP worksheets are reviewed in class the day they are due, students cannot receive participation points for submitting EPs late. Weekly updates to the group's Bulb portfolio are due by 11:59 PM each Sunday. Groups will lose 10% (max 50%) for each day the update is late.

**Website:** Important course information (e.g. lab reports, worksheets, PowerPoint files, videos, simulations) will be posted on the course website, [fswchs.weebly.com](http://fswchs.weebly.com). Students will be expected to access this course website frequently (basically daily).

**Poll Everywhere:** Eventually, chemistry students will need to register an email or mobile phone to use Poll Everywhere, which is an online polling service I will use for formative assessment.

**Bulb:** If you are part of Dr. Tayloe's PCS Skills class, then you will be very familiar with Bulb. If you are not in Dr. Tayloe's PCS Skills class, you will be provided with a log-in for Bulb that you will need to be able to collaborate with your lab partners to develop an online chemistry portfolio. Additional information will be provided regarding Bulb and grading of the group portfolios in the near future.

**Remember: You are responsible** for any material/information missed during an absence (excused or unexcused). If a lab reflection was graded during your absence, make sure you submit that reflection for grading as soon as you return to school. Make every effort possible to get notes from a lab partner and online. I will gladly answer specific questions about missed material after school, but I will not answer "What did I miss?" Students absent for a test must make timely arrangements to take an alternative version of the test after school. Students that fail to make up a test within the provided time will receive a zero for that test.

**Parents/Guardians:** Parents are expected to track their son/daughter's progress by checking current grades using FOCUS. I will attempt to use Remind to notify participants of with pertinent information as often as possible. You can join my Remind class and see recent notifications from my Chemistry website. Please email me with any concerns as soon as they arise: [bschmidt@fsw.edu](mailto:bschmidt@fsw.edu)

**Lab Safety:** As a lab-based course, it is imperative that students always conduct themselves in a safe, controlled-manner in chemistry. To ensure the safety of everyone, students unable to control their "horseplay" will forfeit their ability to conduct labs, perhaps permanently.