

Chemistry 1A Policies, Fall 2013

We, and the world around us are made of chemicals: molecules and solid-state materials in various physical forms (solids, liquids, gases) render life on earth possible; they provide us with food, shelter, warmth, light, health, and comfort. This course opens the door to an understanding of how atoms come together to form chemical compounds and how these species can change by movement of electrons. By the end of the semester, we hope you will look at the world around you somewhat differently, using your knowledge of chemistry to better appreciate and understand the air you breath, the water you drink, the food you eat, etc.

Rather than a focus on memorizing facts and algorithms, you will be asked to make predictions and provide explanations. While building your knowledge of chemistry, you will be developing an understanding of the scientific process in general that will help you in many other courses. For details on lecture/course content, see the document: *Chem 1A Outline F13* on bSpace.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

	Prof. John Arnold	Prof. Marcin Majda
Lecture	9, 11 AM	1 PM
Email	arnold@berkeley.edu	majda@berkeley.edu
Office	526 Latimer	B40 Hildebrand
Office Hrs	TBA	MWF 2-3 pm 9 Lewis Hall

Class Meetings: MWF 9:10-10:00 or 11:10-12:00 or 1:10-2:00 in Pimentel Hall

Course Materials:

- Sapling online homework (includes an online textbook)
- iClicker
- Recommended textbook: *Chemistry: A Molecular Approach* by Tro (Prentice Hall) 2nd ed (3 also ok, as are related texts by Zumdahl, Oxtoby, Atkins, Brown & LeMay, etc)
- Chem 1A Redacted Lecture slides, Preclass Assignments, Study Guide, & Previous exams be made available in hardcopy at Copy Central on Bancroft (PDFs on bSpace)
- A nonprogrammable scientific calculator that can handle logarithms and scientific notation. Graphing calculators or cell phones *may not be used* during exams.

Course Website: Chem 1A LEC F13 at bSpace.berkeley.edu

Direct your email messages first to your GSI who is your main point-of-contact for the course. More general questions should be addressed to the Head GSIs at chem1afall13@gmail.com. All e-mail to the Instructors concerning Chemistry 1A should have "Chem1A" in the subject line and *must come from your berkeley.edu account*, otherwise it will not be answered. Use e-mail for asking simple questions about the course or if you would like to make an appointment to see Prof. Arnold about an administrative matter.

EXAMS: You must take every exam at the scheduled time. Midterm exams are held Tuesdays: September 24, October 22, and November 19 from 7-9 PM. The final exam is scheduled on Monday, December 16 from 3-6 pm.

If you have a schedule conflict with one of the scheduled exam times, do not enroll in Chem 1A. Exams are offered only at the scheduled day and time. There are no make-up exams.

Exams will be administered to student-athletes who are traveling for University sanctioned sport events by an appropriate proctor at the scheduled exam time. If you are a student with a documented disability please visit the staff at the Disabled Students Program to arrange for testing accommodations. If you miss an exam you will receive a grade of zero for that exam (except in cases of documented emergencies).

DROP IN OFFICE HOURS: GSIs and Teaching Scholars will hold open office hours in Bixby (just across the walkway outside on the ground floor of Latimer Hall) between the hours of: **Monday 3-6, Tuesday 1-5, Wednesday-Friday 3-5**. Additional office hours may be offered before exams – check bSpace for updates.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Discussion starts on Wed, Sept 4th; attendance is mandatory. You *may* need to print out the discussion assignments (check bSpace), do work required in preparation, and bring the printout with you to discussion. You will receive points for participation, presentations, and short quizzes during discussion.

REVIEW SESSIONS: The GSIs will hold review sessions a few days prior to each exam. Updates will be announced in lecture and on bSpace.

GRADE INFORMATION:

	%	Grade	Percent
Midterm 1	15	A	85–100%
Midterm 2	20	B	70–84%
Midterm 3	20	C	55–69%
Final Exam	35	D	45–54%
iClicker, Discussion, Homework	10	F	<45.0%
Total	100%		

The grade you earn is based on the scale above. Note that we do not curve the grades. In doing so, we note that in principle everyone can get a good grade and there is every incentive for working together to help your fellow classmates.

POLICIES

- Lecture attendance and active participation is expected. Points are awarded for iClicker quizzes during lecture.
- You may attend any of the lecture sections (9 AM, 11 AM or 1 PM) without having to change your section on Telebears.
- Your iClicker responses will count for credit in any section you attend, but *you may only vote in one* lecture section on a given day.
- Attendance in discussion is mandatory. You must attend your assigned discussion section only.
- Academic honesty policies are strictly enforced. See: asuc.org/honorcode/faq.php and sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct. An online quiz (Sapling) to test your understanding of this issue is required before you can complete any other assignments in the course (homework or exams).

Some practical advice:

- Get to know your GSI. He or she can be of considerable help both during the course and after.
- Our lectures are intended to expose you to important material, so pay close attention; questions on the exams will be based on what we discuss in lecture and on materials from the homework and discussion sections.
- The suggested textbook should be used as a supplement to the lecture material.
- Experience tells us that to do well in this course may require 10 hours/week or more in homework and studying; some students need more, some less. Please bear this in mind when arranging your schedule for the semester.
- Keep up with the material! The weeks will start flying by and you don't want to get behind. Do the preclass assignments, read the study guide and textbook, and start your homework days in advance of the deadline.
- The UC Berkeley Student Learning Center is an excellent resource for the course: slc.berkeley.edu/
- More advice can be found in the Resources folder on bSpace

Questions?

- Check bSpace: it also has a comprehensive FAQ list.
- Attend Q&A session to be held **September 3 from 6-7 pm in Pimentel**. Livecast feed will be available also – updates will be posted on bSpace.