

**PLEASE READ, SIGN, COPY, AND RETURN ORIGINAL TO MR. THALER. THANK YOU.**  
**A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR RECORDS AT [www.mrthaler.net](http://www.mrthaler.net).**

**Course Description:**

Chemistry deals with the substances that make up our environment and the changes that take place in these substances. This is a year-long course designed to meet the 10-unit physical science requirement for graduation, and to give the college-bound student a good foundation in laboratory-based, problem-solving chemistry. **A sound mathematical background in Algebra 1 is important for success in this course.**

This course satisfies the UC "D" or "F" requirement.

**General Course Objectives:**

(For a detailed outline, go to [mrthaler.net](http://mrthaler.net).)

**SEMESTER ONE**

- Unit 0—Chemistry Fundamentals
- Unit I—Combustion, Heat, and Energy
- Unit II—Atoms, Elements, and Molecules

**SEMESTER TWO**

- Unit III—Understanding Chemical Reactions
- Unit IV—The Chemistry of Climate Change
- Unit V—The Dynamics of Chemical Reactions and Ocean Acidification

**Grading Policy:**

I estimate 500 to 800 points available per semester. Cumulative available points equal 100 percent. A test point is weighted no more nor less than any other point. The following scale will be used for assigning letter grades:

A = 100 - 90%    B = 89 - 80%    C = 79 - 70%    D = 69 - 60%    F = 59% or less.

A **C minus** (70-73%) is considered in danger of failing, as is anything in the **D** range. An **F** is, of course, failing.

There is typically no extra credit available other than board points (see below), which will be explained further in class.

**Classroom Rules:** (All rules subject to change at Mr. Thaler's discretion.)

Students are expected to be studious and courteous at all times in my class:

1. **OUR PRIMARY GOAL IN THIS CLASS IS TO LEARN CHEMISTRY.** Students will respect the rights of others to learn in a safe, enlightening, and productive environment.
2. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS IN CLASS\***, or there will be consequences. Such directions include wearing goggles during labs, turning in homework pages in order, being silent when the tardy bell rings, etc. (Please see "Fine Print" below.) These directions exist for safety and organizational purposes, as well as fairness to all.
3. **BE ON TIME!** Otherwise, consequences will not be pleasant. For example, I may hold your work for the days you are tardy in the make-up folder until such time as I see fit to grade it.
4. **NO CELL PHONES, IPODS, HEADPHONES, SMART WATCHES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY SORT, BOOKS OTHER THAN CHEMISTRY, ETC.**—If I see one of these items out in class, I will take it away. This goes for using a phone's calculator, too. Get a scientific calculator. Anyone in possession of a phone, etc. during a testing period will receive a zero on that test.
5. **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU GET A SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR.** You'll need one. (They typically range from \$10 to \$15.) Graphing calculators are fine, too.
6. **COME TO CLASS WITH YOUR TEXTBOOK, A PEN AND/OR A PENCIL, A NOTEBOOK**—standard equipment—plus any necessary supplementary materials, and be prepared to take notes.
7. **BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE** in class discussions, which will be based on the reading and/or homework. Also, be prepared to participate in board work—a good source of bonus credit.
8. **RAISE YOUR HAND** if you wish to add something to lectures or discussions. Otherwise, when I am addressing the class—that is, lecturing—**PLEASE DON'T TALK.**
9. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED**, other than makeup work for a justified absence on the day it was due. You will have one day for every day an assignment or due date was missed, beginning with the day you return to school from an excused absence, to hand in homework or make up quizzes and tests for credit. So, for example, if you are absent the day something is due, then you hand it in the day you return. **LABORATORY EXERCISES MAY NOT BE MADE UP.** I have measures in place for genuinely unavoidable absences on lab days, however.
10. **PLAGIARISM** is defined as the practice of taking or copying someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own. **THERE WILL BE ZERO TOLERANCE** for plagiarism in this class, in accordance with SVUSD policy. Lab reports must be written independently, unless otherwise directed.

**Laboratory Rules:**

Same as classroom rules, plus:

**IMPORTANT:** There will be zero tolerance for behavior by any student that infringes upon the right of other students to learn and experience science. This especially applies to the laboratory, where bad behavior can endanger other students. I will take any measures necessary to eliminate disruptive elements from my classroom or laboratory.

Students and their parents will be required to sign a laboratory safety contract before students will be allowed to do lab work.

**Assignments and Points:**

All assignments will be announced in class as they come up, and/or they will be posted on *mrthaler.net*.

Google Classroom will probably just refer you to *mrthaler.net*, where you will find a monthly calendar.

Homework assignments and labs will typically be worth 10-15 points each. Lab report due dates vary, depending on the lab, and will be announced as necessary in class.

There will be reading quizzes on most chapters (20-30 points, each), occasional follow-up quizzes on most chapters (20-30 pts each), and unit exams worth up to 100 points each. There will be a semester-cumulative final exam, worth 100-200 points, at the end of each semester.

*IT IS UNLIKELY THAT YOU WILL PASS THE CLASS IF YOU FAIL TO CONSISTANTLY DO THE HOMEWORK AND LAB REPORTS.*

**Textbook:**

Moore, C., Wysession, M., and Bryn, L. (2021). Experience Chemistry in the Earth System. Boston, MA: Pearson.

**Laboratory Manual:**

LeMay, H.E., Beall, H., Robblee, K.M., and Brower, D.C. (2000, 1996). Chemistry: Connections to Our Changing World, Laboratory Manual. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

**\*Fine Print:** Please silence yourself and your neighbors when the tardy bell rings, otherwise there may be unwanted consequences for the entire class—students will be able to talk to one another after directions are given and everyone is working. Homework assignments and their pages must be in order to receive credit. All work must be shown, including units and labels, on all assignments where applicable to receive credit. Students must complete homework and lab assignments to receive full credit—anything less than complete and the score will drop dramatically: For example, half-finished does not equal half-credit, but rather far less than half-credit. Any video notes must include the title of the video, the minimum number of notes, and every note must be numbered to receive credit. While notes are typically allowed on reading quizzes (and only reading quizzes), no notes are allowed on make-up reading quizzes. Anyone found with a cell phone or smart watch in their possession during an exam or quiz will receive a zero on their exam or quiz. If anyone removes testing materials from the room they will receive a zero on that test. Anyone not wearing their safety goggles during a lab as directed may receive a zero on the lab. No open-toed shoes are allowed during lab exercises, closed-toed shoes only. Everyone must clean up after labs, and return all equipment, including lab handouts, or points will be deducted from the entire class. No food or drink is allowed in or around the lab stations, including water. Foul language will not be tolerated. Students must stay awake and alert at all times during class. This list is not comprehensive.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules and regulations detailed above and on the preceding page.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and print.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and print.

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