Online Exam Course structure

Course website: http://webcourses.niu.edu (Blackboard)

Time & Place: Lectures, Tue & Th, 11.00 AM – 12.15 PM.
Instructor: Professor Narayan S. Hosmane, Faraday Hall 305, 753-3556, e-mail: hosmane@niu.edu
Co-Instructor: Professor Chong Zheng, Office: LaTourette 326, Phone: 753-6871, e-mail: czheng@niu.edu
Office hours: Tue. 2:00 - 3:15 p.m., or by appointment via Telecommunication, but through e-mail at any time.

Course structure and grading:

“Lecture” portion: There will be three midterm exams and one final exam worth 100 points each (400 pts total). The lowest exam score can be replaced by the LearnSmart points (see below, optional).

“Online” portion: There will be thirteen (one per chapter) on-line homework assignments worth total of 130 pts and thirteen (one per chapter) multiple-choice quizzes totaling 65 pts. There is also one LearnSmart module per chapter (optional but recommended) worth 8 pts. Cumulative LearnSmart score can replace the lowest exam score. These will be administered via Blackboard/Connect. There will be up to 80 pts assigned for the on-line discussion board. Each student will have to participate in four of those (initiating discussion topics and posting comments/replies to the existing threads/doing other online assignments).

The total available points will therefore be:

400 (exams) + 130 (homework) + 65 (quiz) + 80 (discussion) = 675

The overall course grading will be as follows:

Out of the 675 pts: > 92% = A; >88= A-; > 83% = B+; > 80% = B; > 77% = B-;
>73% = C+; >70% = C; >61% = D; < 60% = F

This scale may be revised downward (not upward), but this is not guaranteed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic begins</th>
<th>Tentative Topics</th>
<th>HW, Quiz and Forum and LearnSmart Due (11.00 am CT)</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/24</td>
<td>Introduction and Portable Electronics</td>
<td>08/31</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/31</td>
<td>The Air We Breathe</td>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>09/07</td>
<td>Radiation from the Sun</td>
<td>09/14</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/14</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>09/21</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/21</td>
<td>Energy from Combustion</td>
<td>09/28</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/28</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-5, 100 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/05</td>
<td>Energy from Alternative Sources</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Energy Storage</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Water everywhere</td>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>The World of Plastics and Polymers</td>
<td>11/02</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/02</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (Ch. 6-9, 100 pts)</td>
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<td>Ch. 6-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/09</td>
<td>Brewing and Chewing</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Health and Medicine</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Genes and Life</td>
<td>12/07</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<td>12/02</td>
<td>Thursday, EXAM 3 (Ch. 10-13, 100 pts)</td>
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<td>Ch. 10-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/07</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10-11:50 am: Final (Comprehensive, 100 pts)</td>
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<td>Ch. 1-13</td>
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</table>

Exams:

There are two hourly exams scheduled on 09/28 and 11/02 at the normal class time. Exam 3 and the Final are scheduled on Thursday (12/02, 11.00 AM – 12.15 PM) and Thursday (12/07, 10 – 11.50 AM) during finals week (note time change for the final). If you are unable to make it on that day, please make arrangements with me PRIOR to the exam. No make-up exams will be given after the test date. All exams will be multiple-choice and graded online.

Online HWs and quizzes:
There is one HW and quiz per each chapter, administered via Blackboard/Connect. Each HW consists of 10 conceptual, multi-step, or algorithmic questions with hints and feedback. The total for each HW is 10 pts max, with 130 pts available for all semester. Each HW can be attempted three times with no penalty. Each quiz has 10 multiple-choice questions worth a total of 5 pts per quiz. You have two attempts at the quiz; the second attempt will carry a 20% penalty. The total for all 13 quizzes is 65 pts max. There is also an optional LearnSmart module for each chapter worth 8 pts. It tests your understanding of the book material using variable questions. The maximum of 104 pts is available for the semester, which will replace the lowest exam score (including the Final) Thus, if you like your grade from the first three exams and LearnSmart, you do not have to take the Final. The deadline is the date indicated in the Table above at 11:00 a.m. CT (beginning of class). The late penalty is 20% for each day.

Discussion Forum:
About twelve percent of your grade (up to 80 pts total) will be based upon your postings to the discussion groups. For four out of thirteen chapters you will be expected to initiate a post and then respond to at least two of your classmates’ posts or do other assigned tasks. If your last name starts with A-F, you will be initializing and responding to a discussion in the forum for chapters 2, 5, 8 and 11. If your last name starts with G-L, you will be doing the same thing for chapters 3, 6, 9 and 12. If your last name starts with M-Z, you will be doing the same thing for chapters 4, 7, 10 and 13. First, make your post to the appropriate chapter (half of the credit for each chapter). Your post (at least ten sentences long) will serve as evidence that you have read the book, studied the web resources, and worked on it. After that, examine other students’ submissions and respond (via reply, at least five sentences long) to two or more of them (the other half of the credit for each chapter). There will be instructions for the forum posted on Blackboard for every chapter.

We will be monitoring the discussions, reading all the submissions and responses, evaluating them, informing you from time to time of those evaluations, and occasionally making helpful suggestions for improving submissions and, if necessary, correcting errors. More detailed instructions will be posted on the Blackboard. The discussion forum is graded on participation (not on content), but posts/replies that fail to meet the course standards (length, appropriateness of topic, respect for other classmates’ viewpoints) may receive zero points. The last assignment is graded for content and all instructions will be fully posted on Blackboard.

Textbook and Connect Code:
Textbook is required for successful completion of the class. You may attempt to go through the class without it (lecture PowerPoint slides provide about 80% of information) but it is not recommended. Sharing a textbook between two or more people is possible. The text is Chemistry in Context, 10th Edition, 2021, Fahlman et al., McGraw-Hill. You can purchase it or rent it together with the Connect Code from NIU bookstore. Alternatively, you can buy an e-book and Connect Code (the bundle is called Connect Plus) from the publisher directly. Or you can purchase the Connect Code from the publisher (when you access Blackboard HW or quiz) and the book elsewhere.

Office Hours:
Tue. 2:00 - 3:15 P.M. During these times you can talk to me via telecommunication (phone, email, MS Teams, or Zoom). You are welcome to talk to me for help during office hours without an appointment. If you are unable to come during these times, you can make an appointment with me for another time that is convenient for both of us. You are also encouraged to contact me by e-mail and by phone during normal business hours.

Other resources:
The course website (http://webcourses.niu.edu) will feature important announcements, suggested discussion topics, practice exams, current exams and keys, and lecture PowerPoint slides for downloading. Check the site periodically. You will need your student Z-ID to log in.

For further help, names of personal tutors are available from Ryan Damhoff in FR 319 (the Chemistry office).

Your success as a student is of utmost importance to us. If you have a disability or any other special circumstance that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require exam and/or other types of accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Please feel free to contact me by phone or to schedule an appointment.

The NIU Disability Resource Center (753-1303), located on the fourth floor of the University Health Service, is the designated office on campus to provide services and accommodations to all students with diagnosed disabilities. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to this office.
General Education Course Objectives

- Improve ability to think critically and logically;
- Improve ability to reason quantitatively and to perform basic chemical computations;
- Learn how to use the scientific method and theories to understand chemical phenomena;
- Develop an appreciation for the importance of the role of chemistry in everyday life;
- Develop an understanding of the historical development of the field of chemistry.

Content Objectives of This Course

- Distinguish between chemical, physical, and nuclear processes and properties of matter;
- Understand the acid/base properties of chemical compounds and the role of acids/bases in industrial, environmental, and health/nutritional applications;
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of alternative energy sources vs. fossil fuels;
- Understand the role of chemistry in health care, pharmaceuticals, and nutrition;
- Become knowledgeable about the application of modern materials.

The following is from NIU policies:

Academic Integrity: Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.

A faculty member has original jurisdiction over any instances of academic misconduct that occur in a course which the faculty member is teaching. The student shall be given the opportunity to resolve the matter in meetings with the faculty member and the department chair. If the facts of the incident are not disputed by the student, the faculty member may elect to resolve the matter at that level by levying a sanction no greater than an F for that course. The faculty member shall notify the student in writing whenever such action is taken, and the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct shall receive a copy of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report indicating final disposition of the case, which will be placed in the student's judicial file. In all matters where the charge of academic misconduct is disputed by the student or if the faculty member feels a sanction greater than an F in the course is appropriate (such as repeated offenses or flagrant violations), the faculty member shall refer the matter to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct making use of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report. Additional sanctions greater than an F in a course can be levied only through the University Judicial System. With regards to finding the student either responsible or not responsible for his or her action, the ruling of the Judicial Hearing Board shall be binding. In cases where there is either a finding of responsibility or an admission of responsibility by the student, any recommendations by the hearing board regarding the course grade are non-binding on the instructor, who remains solely responsible for assigning a course grade, consistent with the policies set forth in the course syllabus.

Attendance: The university does not use a "cut" system. Each instructor decides whether to excuse class absences and determines how to permit make-up work.

If a student will be absent from classes for a week or more because of an accident, illness, or other emergency, instructors will be notified of the absence only if students or their parents request it
through the Division of Student Affairs. Health Services will not release information about students unless they provide a written request.

Leaves of absence will be granted for volunteer services related to disaster relief in accordance with applicable Illinois statutes or executive orders issued by the State of Illinois in response to emergency situations. To initiate a leave of absence, students should contact their College Dean's office, or the vice provost (or the vice provost's delegate) for any student who has no college affiliation. Following the period of volunteer service, Registration and Records will facilitate reenrollment of the student.

Students are expected to comply with each individual instructor's established attendance policy. It is recommended that students avoid registering for classes in which they would amass significant absences. In the case of an absence due to required attendance at a university-sponsored event such as a department trip, performing arts activity, ROTC function, or athletic competition, reasonable attempts shall be made by faculty members to allow the student to make up missed work. Students are responsible for completing the work assigned and/or due on the days they are absent for university-sponsored events. Both the sponsoring unit and the student should inform the faculty member as soon as possible in the semester in order for arrangements to be made for completing missed assignments, examinations or other required course work. The student is required to provide each instructor with an official notification in advance of the absence (e.g., a letter from the chair of the sponsoring department, the head of the sponsoring unit, or the coach).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** A student who believes that reasonable accommodations with respect to course work or other academic requirements may be appropriate in consideration of a disability must (1) provide the required verification of the disability to the Disabilities Resource Center, (2) meet with the Disabilities Resource Center to determine appropriate accommodations, and (3) inform the faculty in charge of the academic activity of the need for accommodation. Students are encouraged to inform the faculty of their requests for accommodations as early as possible in the semester but must make the requests in a timely enough manner for accommodations to be appropriately considered and reviewed by the university. If contacted by the faculty member, the staff of the Disabilities Resource Center will provide advice about accommodations that may be indicated in the particular case. Students who make requests for reasonable accommodations are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the Disabilities Resource Center in this process, including but not limited to the Student Handbook.

A wide range of services can be obtained by students with disabilities, including housing, transportation, adaptation of printed materials, and advocacy with faculty and staff. Students with disabilities who need such services or want more information should contact the Disabilities Resource Center at 815-753-1303.

**A word about anxiety**
These are extremely stressful times. You are not alone in feeling it. We are all living with unsettling uncertainty and it affects the way we perceive the world, ourselves and others. Such feelings may be persistent or may come on suddenly. Let’s all promise to be patient with each other and help support a healthy learning environment. If you or somebody you know is struggling with anxiety or other issues, do not hesitate to reach out. Resources available include the DRC, Student Counseling Services or call 815-306-2777. As always, in the event of a crisis call for immediate help via 911 or other general support services listed here.

**Protecting the Pack:**
- Your health and safety are my No. 1 priority.
  We are all members of the Huskie community, and we owe it to each other to protect ourselves and each other. When I come to class, I’ll be wearing a face covering. I expect
you to do the same. If there is some reason that isn’t possible for you, please contact me by email, and we’ll see what arrangements can be made. If you come to class in person, you’ll need to be wearing a face mask.

- I also expect you to monitor your health, and you should stay home if you’ve been exposed to someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19 or if you develop any symptoms that might be related to COVID-19. I’m going to be using the #CampusClear app to document my symptoms, and I want you to do the same. If you do have symptoms, stay home and contact NIU’s COVID helpline (815-753-0444) to report your symptoms and get advice.

- Pandemic conditions require cooperation, patience, and compassion from all of us. I care about your overall wellbeing and will assist you in a reasonable manner as your personal circumstances and possible caregiving responsibilities change. The earlier you notify me, the better I can help you.

- **All students must comply with the guidelines in NIU’s “Protecting the Pack” document. The university will follow all applicable local, state, and federal public health guidelines and orders.**

- To help keep our community healthy, students and instructors will be required to wear protective face masks in class, including when they are speaking. Students are expected to supply and maintain their own face masks.

- Students who cannot wear face masks or other personal protective equipment because of a disability should proactively contact, or be referred to, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) prior to the start of the fall semester. The DRC will engage in an interactive process to determine any reasonable accommodations. Faculty may review the approved accommodation documentation that students receive from the DRC.

- Students are required to follow all reasonable directives from a faculty member while in class. A student who fails to comply with a request to wear a face mask in class will be considered to have disrupted the educational environment. If a student chooses not to comply with the request, the student will be asked to leave and, ultimately, the instructor has the authority to cancel class. Purposeful non-compliance by a student can result in loss of the privilege of attending class or receiving credit in the class. Uncooperative students will be subject to the “Classroom Disruption” process articulated in the catalog’s Academic Regulations.

- Please be advised that the instructor reserves the right to change aspects of this syllabus as pandemic circumstances change. This includes, but is not limited to, in-person classes going fully online, if necessary.