

**Course Syllabus**  
**Chemistry 1010, sec 2**  
**Dixie State College of Utah**  
**Fall 2011**

Professor: **Sarah Black**

Office: **SCI 115B**

Office hours: **2:15-2:30 pm Tues, Thurs**

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Course times: **Tues and Thurs from 1:00 – 2:15 pm in HAZY 220**

CRN: **50589**

**Course description and objectives**

This course fills a physical science general education requirement. It is not designed for science, allied health science, or pre-professional students and will not fulfill any requirements in those programs. Allied health students (nursing, dental hygiene, etc) should start with Chem 1110. Science and pre-professional students (chemistry, physics, geology, pre-med, pre-dent, etc) should start with Chem 1210.

It is not necessary to take this class before taking Chem 1110 or Chem 1210. However, this class can be helpful if you feel you need some extra preparation before taking Chem 1110 or 1210. If you have any questions about which class you should take, please see me and I will be happy to advise you.

After completing any physical science elective course, you should be able to:

- Explain and apply major concepts in the physical sciences (in this case, chemistry).
- Demonstrate knowledge of the process of science (in other words, how science works).
- Communicate scientific ideas through oral or written assignments.

After completing Chem 1010, you should be able to:

- Correctly use the vocabulary of chemistry.
- Understand and use the Periodic Table of Elements to predict the behavior of atoms.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply procedural knowledge such as balancing an equation and , drawing a Lewis dot structure for a covalent compound.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for the chemicals in the world around you and the role of chemistry in creating our standard of living.
- Form intelligent opinions about consumer and environmental issues which involve chemistry.
- Independently gather, evaluate, and synthesize information about chemistry and communicate these ideas in writing.

## Prerequisites

You do not need to have taken any previous chemistry classes to succeed in this class. We will begin at the beginning and cover several basic concepts of chemistry which are also found in high school chemistry classes. However, the pace will be much faster than a high school class, and if these concepts are new to you, you will need to use good study skills and most likely the help of fellow students or the Tutoring Center in order to master them. The focus and purpose of this course is also different from high school chemistry. Even if you have already been exposed to the basic concepts, many of the applications we will talk about will be new to you.

Success in this course requires basic math skills, such as the ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide three digit numbers without a calculator, use negative numbers, and interpret simple equations. If your ACT or placement score indicates that you should take Basic Math/Pre-algebra (MATH 0900) or Elementary Algebra (MATH 0930), I recommend that you drop this class and enroll again once you have successfully completed these math courses.

## Required Materials

There is no textbook required for this course. Everything you need will be posted on the course website. If you do not have internet access at home, you can access the course website at the computer center in the basement of the library or the Smith Computer Center. The address is:

**<http://cactus.dixie.edu/smblack/chem1010/>**

On the course website you will find:

- a copy of this syllabus
- a copy of the Student/Professor Contract
- weekly announcements and reminders
- a class schedule including exam dates
- lecture notes for each day of lecture
- a copy of the learning guide for each lecture
- information to help you prepare for each exam
- a vocabulary list for each unit
- extra credit assignments

Your first assignment is to find the course website and locate the **Student/Professor Contract**. Read this contract, print it out, sign it, and bring it to class on the day following when you receive this syllabus.

You will also need to access Blackboard Vista in order to answer Study Questions after each lecture. Go to the DSC website and click on "Blackboard Vista" in the left hand column. Login using your DSC Username and password (if you don't know what they are, use the links on the page to find out).

## Grades

Your grade will be assigned based your attendance, preparation for and participation in group discussions, and your performance on study questions, exams, and the final. Each of these is weighted differently (as shown below), so you cannot simply take a percentage of your total points to determine your grade. An individualized grade report will be e-mailed to your Dmail account after each exam; you may also e-mail me at any time to receive an updated grade sheet.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>% of total</u>
Attendance – 10 points each day	10%
Study questions – variable points	30%
Group discussions – 20 points each	10%
Exams – 100 points each	40%
Final – 200 points	10%

Attendance (10%) – You are expected to attend class every day it is held, and to make a consistent effort to be on time. Roll will be called each day at the beginning of class, and you will receive 10 points for each day you attend class. If you arrive late, please come up after class and let me know that you were here.

If you miss class for any reason, you will not be able to make up the attendance points; however, I will consider excusing these points if you have a serious illness or miss class due to school-sponsored activities. Please contact me by e-mail to make a request. One or two absences during the semester is not likely to affect your grade, but multiple absences will have an effect. However, you can still learn the material for that day by reading the lecture notes and filling out the learning guide for that day, and you can still do the study questions for full credit. Please see the instructions on the course website entitled "What to do if you miss class."

Study questions (30%) – For each lecture I will post a set of study questions on Blackboard. These questions will help you to review the most important information or skills that you should have learned that day, and should be completed sometime between the end of class and noon on the day of the next class period. They will be graded online so that you can see how you did right away. During the allotted time, you may try again up to three times to get the answers correct; only your highest score will be counted. If you don't do them on time, you have up until noon on the day of the review session for that unit to complete them for late credit (10% penalty). After that, they cannot be made up.

Group discussions (10%) – At the end of each unit we will have a group discussion about an environmental or consumer issue that relates the principles we have been learning to a real life situation. Your assignment will be to look up information ahead of time and be able to contribute to the discussion of the topic; see the course website for details. You will receive credit for coming to the discussion prepared and for writing an in-class essay on the topic. I will try to remind you in class when these days are coming up, but it is your responsibility to look at the schedule and be prepared. If you are unable to attend, you can receive credit for writing the essay, but not for coming prepared and participating in the discussion.

Exams (40%) – Four unit exams will be given in the testing center. Each will be available for two school days. Information about this exam, including some review questions, will be posted on the course website. On the first day the exam is available, a review session will be held in class, during

which you will work on the review questions in groups. During this time you may also ask questions about anything in the unit that you need further help understanding.

The exams will consist of two pages of hand written questions such as matching and fill in the blank, 30 multiple choice questions, and a short essay taken from a list that will be provided on the course web site before each exam. You will need a scantron to answer the multiple choice questions. There is no time limit on the exams. In order to receive full credit, exams must be taken on the days they are scheduled. If you miss the exam days, you may see me for permission to take the exam late with a 10% penalty. If you have a difficulty such as a serious illness that you can document, the late penalty may be waived at my discretion.

Exams will usually be graded within a week of when you take them. I will bring the exams to class for your review; after this, they will be available in my office so that you can see how you did on specific items. I encourage you to look carefully at your exam so that you can see what kinds of mistakes you made and determine how you can improve your performance.

Final Exam (10%) – The final exam will be given in our regular classroom during the exam period determined by Dixie State College. It will cover material from the entire semester. You will be allowed to use your learning guides, lecture notes printed from off of the course website, and any other written material that you want, but you may not use any textbooks or computers of any kind. Failure to take the final exam will result in dropping at least a letter grade. If you miss the final exam for any reason, please contact me immediately.

Extra credit – There will be a few extra credit assignments listed at the end of each lecture; once you get the sense of what they are, you are welcome to suggest projects for my approval. You may do up to one extra credit assignment for each unit. It will add up to 5 points to your score on the exam for that unit. However, it will not be possible to make a major change in your grade using extra credit. Please do not come to me near the end of class to ask for extra credit to make up for poor performance the whole semester.

Letter grades will be assigned based on % of points earned on the scale shown below, which will reflect the weighted sum of the percentages you earn in different categories.

A	93.0 – 100%	C+	77.0 – 79.9%
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	C	73.0 - 76.9%
B+	87.0 – 89.9%	C-	70.0 – 72.9%
B	83.0 – 86.9%	D	50.0 – 69.9%
B-	80.0 – 82.9%	F	0 - 49.9%

A grade of “incomplete” will only be given in circumstances where a student has been doing well in the class but has a difficulty such as serious illness during the last few weeks of the semester.

## How to Succeed in the Class

It has been my experience that many students who take Chem 1010 are still making the transition between high school and college level expectations. In high school, teachers and parents were still asked to take some responsibility for your success or failure. In college, it's time for you to take charge. Professors are there to offer you learning opportunities, but it is your job to take advantage of them. Here are some suggestions for what it will take to do well.

1. Come to class every day! The most common cause of students earning poor grades in this course is skipping class. If you miss a day or two during the semester, it won't be a big deal, but since our class meets only twice a week, you can get behind pretty fast.
2. Use class time to learn. If you are here in body but not paying attention, it won't do you much good. Don't just passively fill out the learning guide – think about what you are hearing and try to understand it. Ask questions. Try to get enough sleep the night before so that you are rested and alert. Eat lunch before you come to class, preferably something healthy rather than junk food. If you find yourself getting lost often during class, it may help to look through the lecture notes on the course website before you come to give you an idea of what we will be discussing.
3. Review the learning guide and do the study questions each day after class. Plan a time to do this regularly. Use the lecture notes to review anything you didn't understand. Use your three tries to get as many points as you can on the Study Questions. Don't put the Study Questions off until the last minute, or you could end up with computer problems and have to take them late.
4. Get to know other class members. Talk to the students around you before class, and if you find someone you feel comfortable with, suggest studying together. It is ok to work on the Study Questions together as long as you don't copy the answers from another student without knowing the answer yourself. Discussing the concepts together can really make a difference in your understanding, whether you are doing the explaining or the listening.
5. Come prepared to the group discussions. Look ahead and mark them on your calendar so you won't forget. Schedule time to do a good job finding information about the topics so that you'll feel comfortable participating in the discussion.
6. Start reviewing the material for the exam a few days before you take it. Don't count on long hours of studying the night before to do it – three one hour study sessions are better than one three hour study session. Try not to take the exams at the last minute. Plan ahead when you will take them, and allow yourself plenty of time.
7. If you find yourself struggling, get help early. Get a study group together, go to the tutoring center, or see me. If you wait until late in the semester, there won't be much anyone can do to help.

Anyone can get a good grade in this class. If you do all of the things above, you should find yourself doing well. If you try to get by with skipping some of them, you may not be happy with the result. If you don't like your grade on the first exam, take stock of your study habits and change something. If you just keep doing what you are doing, you will end up with the grade you are getting. But if you make some changes, there is a good chance you will be able to earn the grade you want.

## Other Useful Stuff

College approved absences: Dixie College Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

Dmail: Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Dmail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select “Dmail,” for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.

Important DSC dates to remember (for course dates, see schedule on the last page):

Mon, Aug 22	Classwork starts
Wed, Aug 24	Last day to add without a signature
Mon, Aug 29	Drop fee begins (\$10 per class)
Mon, Sep 5	Labor Day (no classes)
Tues, Sep 6	\$50 Late registration/payment fee
Mon, Sep 12	Last day for refund
Mon, Sep 12	Last day to drop without a “W” grade
Tues, Sep 13	Classes dropped for non-payment
Fri, Sep 16	Last day to add classes
Fri, Sep 30	Last day to apply for graduation
Wed, Oct 12	Midterm grades due
Thurs, Oct 13 - Fri, Oct 14	Semester Break
Mon, Oct 17	Last day to drop or audit classes
Fri, Nov 11	Last day for complete withdrawal
Wed, Nov 23 – Fri, Nov 25	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Fri, Dec 9	Last day of classes
Mon, Dec 12 – Fri, Dec 16	Final exams

Disability Accommodations: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located at the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

College resources: Several college resources are available to help you succeed. Check out the links for each one to get more information.

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. There is a schedule of what courses have tutors at what times outside the door. You can also visit them online at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. You can also visit them online at [http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc\\_writing\\_center.php](http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php)

If you need to use a computer to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Computer Center in the Smith Computer Center or the Library basement.

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the first floor of the Career/Financial Aid Building. You can get information on their website at <http://new.dixie.edu/testing/>

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Val Browning Library or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Classroom expectations: It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the teacher is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

Academic honesty: I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, I will not tolerate cheating, and if I discover that it has occurred, a zero grade will be given for that assignment or exam, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in failing the course.

Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains.

I have tried to design assignments and exams to minimize the temptation to cheat, but it is not my job to prevent you from cheating. If you cheat and are not caught, it doesn't mean that you "beat the system." It means you violated the Student Code and forfeited your integrity, whether or not you are caught. You will pay the price, sooner or later. Having served on the committee that disciplines students for academic dishonesty, I can promise you that it is better to fail an assignment or even a class than to cheat and lose the chance to continue your education. (See "Student Code" <http://library.dixie.edu/policies/studentcodesectionfour.pdf> page 8).