**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

I have compiled a list of FAQs for this course, please look over these and refer back to them throughout the semester.

1. Do I **REALLY** need to study for this class? (I never studied in high school and got all A’s, I think I’ll just go to lectures and not do anything else…)
2. How should I study/prepare for this class?
3. Why do I have to do the assigned practice problems at the end of each chapter if they are not going to be graded?
4. Should I take notes during lecture? And will lecture notes be provided?
5. Can I use a computer/tablet to take notes? What about recording lectures and taking photos of the lecture slides?
6. It’s been a while since my high school chemistry class, and I find myself struggling to keep up, where can I find help?
7. Where can I find the CLC (Chemistry Learning Center)?
8. Where can I find the online homework assignments
9. How are homework points calculated?
10. What are clicker points?
11. How are clicker points rewarded?
12. If I missed my regular lecture time, can I attend a different lecture section on the same day and still get clicker points?
13. How do I know if my clicker is working properly? And where can I find out my clicker points?
14. When are the online quizzes scheduled?
15. Where can I find the online quizzes?
16. How long is a typical LON-CAPA Quiz?
17. What if I missed a quiz due to a serious illness (or other circumstances)?
18. When are the hourly exams?
19. What happens if I missed an exam?
20. How is a prorated exam score calculated?
21. What is covered on the hourly exams?
22. What is the format of the hourly exams?
23. Should I do the “exam retake”? How is the exam retake factored into my exam scores?
24. When is the final exam?
25. What is covered on the final exam? And the format of the final exam?
26. What if I missed the final exam?
27. I checked my final grades, and I am one point away from a (insert a borderline grade), is there any way you can round me up?
**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. *Do I REALLY need to study for this class? (I mean I never studied in high school and got all A’s, I think I’ll just go to lectures and not do anything else.....)*

   For each lecture/discussion period, you are expected to put in at least two to three hours of study time (you may need more study time if the concepts and principles are new and unfamiliar to you). This mean “quality” and “distraction-free” study time. You can’t really learn chemistry through “osmosis” by simply having the textbook open, and the TV (or Netflix on the computer) on at the same time. Or trying to work on a problem while checking Facebook or texting your friends about weekend plans!

2. *How should I study/prepare for this class?*

   Because everyone learns/processes information differently, there isn’t a prescribed way to study chemistry. I can only offer some advice from personal experience and what other students have done in the past. Like learning a new foreign language, you’ll first need to understand and get familiar with the “language of chemistry”. This means reading the textbook, attend lectures and discussion sections regularly, and doing the practice problems and worksheets. While the textbook is not a Pulitzer Prize winning novel, it is full of important and useful concepts, as well as very interesting information about chemistry, thus it is worthwhile to use the textbook effectively (i.e. actually read it, do the exercises, and work on the end of the chapter practice problems). Also, do something **EVERY DAY!** Cramming for exams do not work for most people, you may remember something for the short term, but will not be able to retain it for the final (which is comprehensive).

3. *Why do I have to do the assigned practice problems at the end of each chapter if they are not going to be graded?*

   While these problems will not be collected or graded, they are strongly recommended since exam questions are sometimes derived from these practice problems. The solutions to most of these problems are available in the recommended supplement called *Partial Solutions Guide for Chemistry.* (The CLC will also have solution guide for you to check out). Please use this guide in a mature and appropriate manner (i.e. you should only refer to it when checking the work you have done). One of the biggest mistakes I often see is people trying to solve a problem by randomly putting numbers and equations together so you get the same answer as the solution guide without knowing why!

   ![Box with text](image)

   The learning of chemistry is similar to learning how to play a sport (or a music instrument). To be successful, you must **practice, practice, practice!**

4. *Should I take notes during lecture? And will lecture notes be available?*

   Yes, definitely take notes, studies have shown that taking notes helps us process what information we already know and not know at that time instance; this knowledge can help you study later when you review the material on your own. While I use PowerPoint for lecture, it is used mostly to provide the outline structure and it’s easier for everyone to see in a large lecture room. For calculations and problem solving, I also write on the PowerPoint slides and use the black board. I don’t provide detailed lecture notes in advance since I write new lecture notes every year. I do provide pre-lecture notes (which has the topics and headings for the upcoming lecture), typically by 5:00 or 6:00 pm the day before each lecture. After each lecture, the summary of the post-lecture notes will be posted later that evening or the following day. Both the pre- and post-lecture notes will only be available in Lon-Capa to registered students.
5. **Can I use a computer/tablet to take notes? What about recording lectures and taking photos of the lecture slides?**

I don’t care how you take notes, but if you are using a computer/tablet, you should not simultaneously do email, Facebook, or watch Youtube videos at the same time (or any other non-class related web browsing activities), just **DON’T DO IT!!** It’s annoying and distracting; this is according to the many complaints I received the past couple years from other students who are trying to pay attention in class (see also Policy on Classroom Conduct, p. 2). Since my lectures belong to me and the University, it is copyrighted, thus audio or video recording of the lecture is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** unless you have a documented need (in this case, please come see me ASAP). The same goes for taking photos of the lecture notes with your phone, ipad, ipod, etc. There are few exceptions when I do demos, but you can’t post these on the web without my permission.

6. **It’s been a while since my high school chemistry class, and I find myself struggling to keep up, where can I find help?**

If you are having trouble completing the homework assignments, quizzes, etc. please get help right away, you can come see me during office hours or schedule an appointment with me via email. We also have the Chemistry Learning Center (CLC), which is staffed with graduate TAs to help you

7. **Where can I find the CLC?**

Due to the renovation at Chem Annex, the CLC will be temporarily located at 230 Davenport Hall. The CLC houses the chemistry educational computing service and our tutoring facilities. At specific times, a chemistry TA is “on call” at the CLC to answer questions and/or assist with problem solving. There are a variety of resources available (either in book form or on-line tutorials) to help you. For more detail please go to [http://www.chem.illinois.edu](http://www.chem.illinois.edu).

8. **Where can I find the online homework assignments?**

You’ll have access to online homework assignments on LON-CAPA (The LearningOnline Network on CAPA) system ([www.lon-capa.illinois.edu](http://www.lon-capa.illinois.edu), or [www.lon-capa.uiuc.edu](http://www.lon-capa.uiuc.edu)). These homework assignments are accessible using the common browser program (Firefox, Chrome, etc.). You can also get to LON-CAPA through a link on the course website. The timeframe for completing each of the assigned homework sets is typically one week. Availability and due dates of homework assignments will be announced in class in advance and posted on our course website in the Class Announcements section

9. **How are homework points calculated?**

Your online homework grade (out of 70 points possible) will be determined by the number of problems that you complete correctly; and you’ll need to complete the weekly homework in the allotted time. Any work done after the deadline will not be given credit. The LON-CAPA system will keep a tally of the points you’ve earned during the semester. At the end of the semester, we will take the percentage of the points you earned in LON-CAPA adjusted to the 70 points scale. For example if you completed all of the questions correctly (i.e. 100%), then you’ll receive 70 points; and if you answered 90% of the questions correctly, you will receive 63 points.

*Because you are given ample time (one week) and multiple tries (25) to attempt all the problems, there is no reason why you shouldn’t be able to receive most of the points possible (70 pts). Please beware that the online homework sets are only a fraction of the types of problems you are expected to master. It is important that you also work on the practice problems and discussion worksheets.*
10. **What are clicker points?**

I use the clicker to keep track of your attendance because I am required by the University to report absences at midterm. Clicker points can only be obtained by answering the clicker questions during lecture and by using a registered i-clicker device. Therefore, you should bring your i-clicker to every lecture. You **MUST register** your i-clicker at http://iclicker.illinois.edu/students.aspx. You should do this before the end of the first week of classes. Registration is required so that points can be assigned to you when you answer the clicker questions correctly.

The purpose of these questions is to encourage you to attend lectures; and to reward those who have been keeping up with course material, paying attention in lecture and participating in class. Therefore, it is **not allowed** for you to bring your friend’s (or friends’) i-clicker(s) and attempt to earn these points for them (and this would be consider to be a form of cheating and if caught you will be referred to the Dean’s office).

Since clicker points are additional bonus points (not part of the grade), there will not be any makeup points if you forgot your iClicker that day, or if you missed class due to illness, etc. We will have more than enough clicker points throughout the semester for you to earn these bonus points.

11. **How are clicker bonus points rewarded?**

- 0.2 pts will be awarded for participation in each lecture. These points are awarded only the **First time** you use the clicker regardless of whether you answer the question correctly or not.
- 0.2 pts will be awarded for each of the questions you answered correctly; if you answered incorrectly you will be awarded 0.1 pts for participation.

Example: There are two “clicker” questions in lecture and you answered both of them correctly, you will receive 0.2 pt for participation, and 0.2 x 2 = 0.4 pt for answering correctly, and for this lecture, you have earned 0.6 point. If you only answered one of them correctly, then you will receive 0.5 pt (0.2 + 0.2+ 0.1). If you struck out both times, then you still have 0.4 pt for that lecture period.

At the end of the semester, clicker points will be tallied and points earned (up to 15 points) will be added to your total points at the end of the semester.

There will not be any clicker points awarded the first week of classes so you have time to register your i-clicker device. If your i-clicker is lost, broken, or stolen (or you simply cannot remember where you put it), please let me (Dr. Huang) know ASAP before you purchase another one.

12. **If I missed my regular lecture time, can I attend a different lecture section on the same day and still get clicker points?**

The iClicker program will only record clickers that are on the official roster and correctly registered. Thus, if you are not in your registered section, your clicker response cannot be recorded.

13. **How do I know if my clicker is working properly? And how can I keep track my clicker points?**

After the 2nd week of classes, you can find out how many clicker points you have by going to our online grade book (links available on our course website). I update grades typically on Friday or Monday mornings. If you have been attending class and has 0 for clicker points, then it is likely you have not registered your iClicker properly and you might need to re-registered your device. Since grades are uploaded by humans, and computer programs are not perfect, please check the online grade book periodically to make sure your grades are uploaded correctly.

14. **When are the online quizzes scheduled?**

Starting the second week of classes and throughout the course of the semester, you will take 9 - 11 quizzes (the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped). The frequency of the quiz is typically weekly, except for exam week. During the week that we have a quiz, it will be available typically at noon on Fridays, and closes at 11:59 pm on Sundays. Dates and availability will be announced in advance during lecture and posted on our course website.
15. **Where can I find the online quizzes?**
   The quizzes will in administered and found in Lon-Capa.

16. **How long is a typical LON-CAPA Quiz?**
   The LON-CAPA quiz is timed, and you are given 30 minutes to complete the quiz, (sometimes longer, depending on how many questions). Once you start the quiz you must complete it, you cannot finish one question and go back to the quiz at a much later time. Thus, make sure you have everything ready before you start the online quizzes: i.e. have the periodic table, calculator, scratch paper, ready; use the restroom, etc. The purpose of the quizzes is to help you study course material and to prepare for the hourly exams. In addition to test your knowledge on course content, the quizzes will also allow you to practice time management skills in a testing environment.

17. **What if I missed a quiz due to a serious illness (or other circumstances)?**
   Any missed quiz without a legitimate and valid documented excuse will receive a score of zero. There will not be any makeup quizzes (NO EXCEPTIONS). If you missed a quiz due to extenuating circumstances or medical reasons and have a valid documented excuse from the Dean’s Office (notes from McKinley Health Center will not be accepted); please contact your TAs or Dr. Huang immediately. You can chose to use one of the two quiz drops or an excused grade will be assigned at the instructor's discretion. Only one excused quiz is permitted for the semester.

18. **When are the hourly exams?**
   The dates of the three hourly exams are:
   - Tuesday, 9/23/2014
   - Thursday, 10/23/2014
   - Tuesday, 12/2/2014

   All exams are from **7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** (locations to be announced later). If you have a class or lab during the scheduled exam time, then conflict exams will be held at **5:15 – 6:30 p.m.** on the same dates. You **must** sign up for conflict exams in advance (location of the sign-up sheet will be announced). Please bring a picture ID to the exams.

19. **What happens if I missed an exam?**
   **NO MAKE-UP** exams will be given, if you must miss both the regularly scheduled and conflict exam times, you need to contact Dr. Huang immediately. If you have a valid, documented excuse from the Emergency Dean’s office (please see the University regulations at [http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article3_part2_3-202.html](http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article3_part2_3-202.html)), your hourly exam scores will be prorated. A note from McKinley Health Center will not be accepted. You’ll need to provide the documented excuse within two weeks of your absence. If you missed the exam without a valid, documented excuse, you’ll receive a score of zero for that exam.

20. **How is a prorated exam score calculated?**
   The formula for prorated exam score is based on the class average and the difference between your other exam scores and the class average divided by two

   \[
   \text{Prorated score} = \left( \frac{\text{class average for the missing exam} + \left( \text{sum of differences from other exams}/2 \right)}{2} \right)
   \]

   **Example calculation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student score (in %)</th>
<th>Exam 1</th>
<th>Exam 2</th>
<th>Exam 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class average (in %)</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   \[
   \text{Prorated score} = \left( \frac{70 + (-3+8)/2 \right) = 70+2.5 = 72.5
   \]

   Only one excused exam per semester is allowed in order for you to receive a course grade.
21. **What is covered on the hourly exams?**

You are expected to understand concepts and materials covered in lectures, discussions, worksheets, homework problems, as well as assigned chapter problems and readings. Because the applied nature of chemistry, you are expected to solve problems you may not have previously seen by applying concepts and principles you have learned in lectures, discussions, homework problems, etc.

22. **What is the format of the hourly exams?**

Format of the hourly exams will be multiple-choice (typically 27-30 questions) and graded using a test scoring machine (i.e. a Scantron). Answers to the hourly exams will generally be posted on LON-CAPA the day after the exam is completed.

23. **What is “exam retake”? Should I do it? How is the exam retake factored into my exam scores?**

The purpose of the exam retake is so you get a second chance to work on concepts and problems on the exam that you have not quite mastered (or you guessed but don’t really know why you got the answer). The decision to do the exam retake is entirely up to you. The exam retake will be available in Lon-Capa after the exam has been graded (I will announce this in class). It will be open for one week, after the deadline, I will tally the # of correct answers out of the # of questions available, and convert that to a percentage. The additional percentage you can earn from the exam retake is 25% of the difference between the exam retake and your actual exam percent. For example, on the first exam you got 24 out of 30 questions correct (that’s 80%), and on the exam retake you answered 19 questions correctly out of 20 (95 %). The additional % you earned = 0.25 x (95 – 80) = 3.75. Your new exam scores would be 83.8 %.

24. **When is the final exam?**

102 Section F  
Thursday, December 18th, 2014  
7:00 – 10:00 pm (Locations TBA)

102 Section G  
Wednesday, December 17th, 2014  
8:00 – 11:00 am (Locations TBA)

25. **What is covered on the final exam? And the format of the final exam?**

The final exam is comprehensive (yes, this means it will include everything we covered all semester). It is in the same format as the hourly exams and will have 60 questions.

26. **What if I missed the final exam?**

The final exam is **required** of every student who wants to receive credit for this course (keep in mind that you also need to achieve overall points of 600 or better to receive course credit). If you have to miss the final exam please refer to the University’s policy on missing final (shown below).

“(b)Undergraduate Students
(1) Undergraduate students must obtain the approval of the dean of their college to defer a final examination. Undergraduate students who must miss a scheduled examination should report this fact to the dean of their college as soon as possible and before the examination period.(2) For satisfactory reasons, students may be “excused” by the dean of their college and examined later by their instructor. Absence from a final examination for any other cause is reported as a final grade of “absent” (ABS) in the course and counts as a failure. (See § 3-103.)”

27. **I just checked my total points on the online gradebook, and I am one point away from a B-, is there any way you can round me up? Is there extra credit work I can do to make up the points?**

There isn’t any extra credit work in this class, except the in class clicker points. Since I drop two quizzes and ample chances for homework, there will not be any more rounding or scaling of the final total points at the end of the semester.