Welcome to the first semester of general chemistry at the College of Charleston. This course will be fast-paced and challenging, but I am confident that with hard work you will do well and enjoy the topics that we cover together. Please keep in mind that chemistry is a cumulative subject. You will continue to be responsible for the information we cover for any future semesters of chemistry that you take. If you have questions about the material or are struggling, please contact me. I have weekly office hours and want you to succeed, but I cannot help you if you do not let me know that there is a problem. I look forward to our semester together!

**Course description:** An introductory course in chemistry emphasizing theoretical aspects and designed primarily for students who intend to take one or more additional courses in chemistry.

**Course Co- and Pre-requisites:** Chem 111L is a co-requisite for this class. If you drop the lab, you must drop this lecture class. Unless exempt via diagnostic testing, Math 111 is also a pre/co-requisite for Chem 111.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Describe how to employ the scientific method
- Solve chemistry problems by employing mathematical techniques and chemical reasoning
- Understand how atoms interact covalently and non-covalently to form molecules and compounds
- Identify the properties of compounds
- Employ an understanding of chemical reactivity to analyze chemical reactions

**General Education Learning Outcomes:** General Education Learning Outcomes are assessed in the second semester of the Science Gen Ed sequence, Chem 112L.

- Students apply physical/natural principles to analyze and solve problems.
- Students will develop an understanding of the impact that science has on society.

**Required Materials:**

- Online access: You must purchase online access to ALEKS for this class. Homework will be given through this website. To access the site and register, use the following link:

  https://www.aleks.com/sign_up

  Then use our class code to register for my section:

  **Class Code:** WMRCJ-DDGTQ
• Textbook: No printed copy is required (access to ALEKS 360 comes with an electronic copy of the text). The textbook we are using is *Chemistry: Atoms First*, fourth edition, by Julia Burge and Jason Overby. If you want a paper copy, feel free to purchase one. If you don’t mind some problems and topics being slightly out of order, a copy of the third edition would also work.

• Non-programmable calculator: Bring a non-programmable scientific calculator that can perform exponential and logarithmic functions to every class. Programmable (ie graphing) calculators will not be permitted on quizzes or exams. You may not share a calculator, and a cell phone is NOT an acceptable option. Examples of acceptable calculators: TI-30X, TI-34.

• A computer with reliable internet access, speakers, webcam, and a microphone is also required, in the event that we need to transition online.

**Recommended Materials:** Several copies of the booklet “Preparing for your ACS exam in General Chemistry: The official guide” are available at the library on reserve, or you may purchase your own copy online. The bookstore also has copies of *Prep for Success in Chemistry* by Sorge, which contains other practice problems.

**Supplemental Instruction:** Heather Ghent will be your course SI, email ghenthr@g.cofc.edu. More information on the supplemental instruction program is available at [http://csl.cofc.edu/supplemental-instruction/](http://csl.cofc.edu/supplemental-instruction/)

**Course topics:** We will cover Ch. 1-11 of the textbook.

**Important Dates:**
Jan. 10: First day of classes (Jan. 11 for us)
Jan. 18: Last day to drop/add course
Mar. 6-12: Spring break; no class
Mar. 25: Last day to withdraw with a W
Apr. 21: Our last day of class
Apr. 28 at 8am: Final exam

**Exam dates:** Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change!
  Exam 1: Thursday, Feb. 3rd
  Exam 2: Tuesday, Mar. 1st
  Exam 3: Thursday, Mar. 31st
  Exam 4: Thursday, Apr. 21st
  Final exam: Thursday, Apr. 28th at 8am

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-92.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.0-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0-86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-82.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>60.0-62.9</td>
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**Course Grade:**
60% Exams (4)
20% Final Exam
20% Homework assigned through ALEKS

**Exams:** There are four exams scheduled for the semester. If your final exam percentage is higher than the average score of your four exams, I will replace your lowest exam score with your final exam score. **In order to take advantage of this policy, you must take all four exams.** You will be given a periodic table.

You are responsible for bringing an appropriate non-programmable scientific calculator for the exams. Cell phones and translators may not be used. You may not share. You may be required to follow a seating chart. In order to receive credit for an answer, you must show work that demonstrates a logical thought process to arrive at the correct answer. You must also use legible handwriting.

**Final exam:** 8am on Thursday, April 28th in our classroom. This exam is a standardized exam by the American Chemical Society. It contains 70 multiple choice questions and requires 110 minutes. Be on time. I highly recommend studying the ACS practice exam booklet (see “Recommended Materials”). Any request to change a final exam administration time may need to be processed officially by filling out the “Change of Final Exam” form. Contact me if you have questions.

**Homework:** Homework is entirely online. It will be administered through the ALEKS website. It will be a combination of adaptive learning assignments and problem sets. Please be sure to allow enough time for the assignments. It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates. Since they are computer based, the due date and time are not flexible. I will build a slight buffer into your score. This is meant to allow for the effects of a sudden illness, computer trouble, etc.

**Other class policies:**
**Academic Honesty:** While I encourage you to study together, academic misconduct, cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you participate in academic misconduct, you will receive a zero for the assignment. **This grade will not be dropped or replaced by the final exam grade, if an exam!** You will also be reported to the dean, and you may be given a failing grade in the class.

Academic misconduct is defined in the handbook. You may not copy, allow another person to copy or otherwise knowingly assist them in a disallowed manner, plagiarize, use disallowed sources of information (cheat sheet, cell phone), or falsify data, among possible offenses. Using a calculator to store equations or text is also cheating. Use of a wireless communication device, such as a phone, during an exam is a violation of the honor code. Please see the school’s honor policy in the handbook for more details.

**Attendance:** Daily attendance is expected and mandatory. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes. Without the lecture information and practice, you will not be able to learn the material. If you decide not to attend the class, it is your responsibility to drop the course. Office hours are not the time to get a “make-up lecture” from me. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student. However, please do not come to class ill. Contact me immediately if you will be absent due to illness. It is important that if you will be absent for something important, you let me know ahead of time and with as much warning as possible—email provides a time stamp!
**Courtesy:** This class should be a positive learning experience for you. Please be courteous and arrive on time, turn off or silence your cell phone, refrain from conversations, don’t do homework for other classes during our time together, and stay awake! If you need to leave for some reason, please sit near the door.

**Successful studying:** An important part of the class is reading the textbook and practicing what you learn by doing homework problems. You are responsible for bringing all materials to each class, including an appropriate calculator.

The best way to succeed in chemistry is by practicing lots of problems. There is no substitute for working problems. Don’t wait until the last minute! You can’t cram for a chemistry exam. You should plan on spending **about 9 hours a week** outside of class studying for this class. I highly recommend forming a study group.

A course website will be maintained on OAKS with Zoom links (if we go online), lecture slides, exam keys, worksheets, and other information. It is your responsibility to be aware of resources on OAKS. I recommend **printing out the lecture slides before class so that you can take notes directly on the printouts**.

There will be frequent assignments on ALEKS; it is your responsibility to keep track of those due dates.

**Communication:** Email is the best way to contact me. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please resend, as it is probably in my junk folder. Please notify me of all important issues via email, even if you have already talked to me about it! I will send out emails to the whole class containing important information about class materials, due dates, upcoming assignments, etc. It is important that you check your email frequently.

**Center for Disability Services/ SNAP Students Needing Access Parity:** If you are approved for accommodations by SNAP, please let me know as soon as possible. You are responsible for contacting me at least one week in advance of any accommodation needed. If you have a documented disability that you need accommodation for in this class, please contact SNAP at 843-953-1431 to arrange.

**Recording of Classes** (via ZOOM): In the event that we must go online, class sessions may be recorded as needed via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

**Courses when students are quarantined/isolated due to Covid-19**

If one or more students are absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 (quarantine or isolation), instructors may, at their discretion, conduct the class exclusively online via OAKS for the duration of student quarantine/isolation, record class lessons to share with students, or choose an alternate accommodation that provides the impacted student(s) with the opportunity to continue in the course. The specific accommodation will vary depending on the number of students affected, the expected duration of their absence, and the needs of the class.

As always, if you have any questions or special circumstances arise, please let me know as soon as possible. It is easier to solve a problem that I know about ahead of time.

**This syllabus is subject to change with appropriate notice.**