



BIG CHEM COURSE INFO

Mr. Kris Darlington naturalphilosophers.org
kjdarlington@galwaycsd.org

518-882-1221 x3503
Room 503

Work hard and therefore succeed

A successful person does not expect something to be given to them – they know that accomplishments are earned through hard work. A successful person values hard work because hard work is a habit that makes you successful for the rest of your life.

Where is my chair? Students will earn their chairs when they read through this packet and they and their parent or guardian have signed the “*Big Chem course Info sign off form.*”

Mr. D stands with you Mr. Darlington will earn his chair when **all** of his students successfully hand in signed copies of the “Big Chem course Info sign off form.”

You will learn

Big Chem is the study of the great reactions and principles of matter. Our course is divided into thirteen chapters: Scientific Skills, Matter, Atomic Structure, the Periodic Table, Bonding, Reactions, Energy, Gases, Kinetics, Solutions, Acids and Bases, Oxidation and Reduction, Organic, and Nuclear Chemistry.

Class resources

All class notes, required news article reading, and homework problems will be posted on our course website: www.naturalphilosophers.org/bigchem

Students can print copies of assignments posted online in the school’s fantastic computer lab.

Grading

Quarter Grade = 50% Exams + 40% Blitzes + 10% Labs

Exams Scored out of 100, composed of old multiple choice and short answer questions from old regents exams exclusively.

Retaking exams. To retake an exam, students must submit a completed problem set the day of the first exam. If students do not submit a problem set the day of the first test, they are not allowed to retake that exam. The first retake, the student’s maximum score can be a 90%. The second retake, the student’s maximum score can be a 80%, etc.

Problem sets Posted online. On exam day, if a student is submitting a problem set to be eligible for a retake, it must be submitted when they walk in the room. No extensions will be given.

Labs The following lab manual will be used: ***Illustrated Guide to Home Chemistry Experiments: All Lab, No Lecture (DIY Science)*** by Robert Bruce Thompson.

Blitzes Short unannounced quizzes to make sure you are prepared for class and are doing homework regularly. ***Blitzes will typically be a problem set problem cut and paste from a problem set.*** Blitzes may not be retaken.

Supplies Students are required to bring the following three supplies to class every day of the year.

Notebook and Pencil Bound with at least two subjects for note taking. Must have name written in large lettering on the inside front cover to be legible from ten meters. Well-kept notebooks will be invaluable in future Chemistry courses. Pen is acceptable, pencil is preferred.

Lab notebook A standard composition notebook that is not spiral bound. It must measure 9.75” x 7.50”. These notebooks typically have a marbled, rigid, cardboard cover.

Calculators Scientific or four function only. Graphing calculators are not permitted on the Chemistry Regents Exam and are therefore not permitted for use at any time.

Procedures

What to do in class and how assignments are submitted.

Late to class means you owe time Students are on time if they are in their seats with their notebook out at the sound of the tone. Students arriving late to class without a valid pass in hand owe time after school.

Missed class Students are responsible for material covered in their absence. Class notes are always posted online (www.naturalphilosophers.org/bigchem). If a student has an unexcused absence when an assignment is due the assignment will receive a zero grade.

The most common reason for students receiving a zero on an assignment is that they did not make it up when they were absent. Mr. D does not chase down students or remind students they have not completed assignments or have missed work when they are absent. **Only students are responsible for ensuring assignments have been completed on time.**

Problem set format **When completing a problem set, especially one towards the beginning of the year, students should have this list in front of them to ensure proper formatting. Problem sets not adhering to these formatting guidelines will not be accepted.**

Consider your problem set to be your resume, cover letter, and job application for a good grade for that unit's problem set. Neatness counts.

Heading: On top left of the every sheet must be: Name, Date, Class Period – written one on top of the other. On the top right of the paper must be the problem set title. Pages must be numbered, Page # of #.

Format of your answers: For each question students must rewrite the question and immediately follow it with its solution. At least one line must be skipped between questions and a solid line must be drawn between problems. All short answer questions requiring an explanation must be answered in complete sentences.

Neatness counts: Problem sets must be hand written, they may not be typed. In addition, papers submitted torn from a notebook with frayed edges will not be accepted. Multiple pages must be affixed together with a staple, not a paperclip. Finally, write only on the front sides of sheets of paper – no sheet will have work written on two sides.

Submitting it during class: On exam day when assignments are due, Mr. Darlington will have a bin out for students to put their work in. **DO NOT** plan on making last minute additions to your problem set in room 503 the day it is due. On time to class means being in your seat ready to go when the bell rings. If you are scrambling to hand in your problem set because you are unprepared, you are late to class and will receive detention that day. It is not fair to those who are prepared that they miss valuable test time because your work is not finished. Be respectful, be prepared.

Plagiarism Students involved in any type of plagiarism – either submitting answers not their own, that they don't fully understand, or supplying answers to other students – will be given a zero for that assignment. Multiple offenders risk removal from the course. Mr. Darlington will under no circumstances write a letter of recommendation for any student who is involved with plagiarism in his class, regardless of the size of the infraction.

The key to success

Students who are prepared for Big Chem are prepared for the future!

These policies are designed to teach you what to expect when you get to the next level in your education. Mr. D has received feedback from many college professors and students who have gone off to the best colleges in the world who have said the study skills they learned in Big Chem have made the difference in their educational careers and put them ahead of their peers. Let this system work for you and be prepared for the rest of your life.

BIG CHEM COURSE INFO SIGN OFF FORM

Hand this in and earn your chair

I swear I will work hard, do my best, and get better!

I have read and understand the expectations set forth for Big Chem in the Big Chem Course Info Sheet. I will live up to these rules and expectations set forth in this course information sheet.

School year _____

Student

Name _____

Signature _____

Parent

Name _____

Signature _____
