CHEM 25: Preparation Course for General Chemistry
Fall 2026 Syllabus

Instructor: Tim Karpishin, Ph.D. Email: karpishintimothy@fhda.edu

Office Hours: **Tues, Thurs, 11:30 am-12:30 pm;** 2nd Floor Science Center offices; enter door that is left at the top of stairs; there is no room number on the door; the door is on the other side of the stairs from SC2202.

CRN: 23020 (Section 61)

Section	Class	Instructor	Time	Location
61	Lab	Karpishin	M 5:30 pm- 8:20 pm	SC2208
61	Lecture	Karpishin	M, W 8:30 pm - 10:20 pm	S32

Prerequisite: Intermediate algebra or equivalent (or higher), or appropriate placement beyond intermediate algebra

Required Materials:

1) **Textbook:** *Introductory Chemistry, 7th edition by Nivaldo J. Tro (Pearson: 2023, ISBN-13: 9780138198411 (**available on Pearson.com**)*
2) **Lab Manual**: *Preparation for General Chemistry by Ram Subramaniam (McGraw Hill Create; ISBN 978-1-307-81770-6) **(AVAILABLE AT THE DE ANZA BOOKSTORE ONLY**)*
3) **Computer** with internet access
4) **Scientific calculator**—Make sure you can do scientific notation (EXP, EE, log, and ln).
5) **Safety goggles**. They are **required** during lab experiment sessions. However, there are goggles available for use during labs. They are available in the campus bookstore or Amazon if you want to own a personal pair.

Important Registration Deadlines:

- **Course Add:** Oct 4 (add code required)
- **Course Drop without W:** Oct 4
- **Course Drop with W:** Nov 13

I. Course Description

This course is an overview of many of the most important topics in general chemistry, including stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structure, solutions, scientific measurement, the periodic table, and chemical reactions. The course material will be approached from both a conceptual and a mathematical standpoint, with an emphasis on achieving proficiency in fundamental problems. The laboratory program teaches laboratory safety, general procedures, and methods of chemical analysis. This course is a preparatory course for entry into the General Chemistry sequence, which is the primary course sequence that is a major preparation requirement in the discipline of Chemistry at all CSUs and UCs.

II. Procedures

Exams. All exams must be taken in-person and require a **SCANTRON** form. **SCANTRON** forms are available at the bookstore or at Amazon. There are no make-up exams. For all lecture exams, you will be allowed to bring in **two note sheets** (8.5 x 11 inches; written on both sides) as long as the note sheets are self-generated (no photocopying or screenshots). You will be provided with a **periodic table.**

Exam 1: Monday Oct. 5 (Chapters 1-4)

Exam 2: Monday, Oct. 26 (Chapters 5-7)

Exam 3: Wednesday, Nov. 18 (Chapters 8, 9, and 11)

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 7 from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm (*cumulative Chapters 1-14, excluding 12*)

Labs. You must attend all lab sessions and must not arrive late. If you have 2 or more unexcused absences from lab, you will receive an F for this course. To participate in a lab session, you must have completed the prelab and be wearing appropriate lab attire. Appropriate lab attire includes flat close-toed shoes and fully covered feet, legs, and torso (stomach). Hair needs to be secured with a hair tie if it is shoulder-length or longer. See the 'Laboratory Policies' section for more details. If you are unable to make it to a lab session, contact the instructor via Canvas/email to let them know as soon as possible.

Lab Tardiness. Students must arrive on time to the lab to receive full credit. You will be considered tardy if you arrive **more than 5 minutes late**. Each instance of tardiness will result in a 10% deduction from the lab score for that day. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be permitted to participate in the experiment and will be marked **absent**.

Lab Reports for Canvas.

Throughout the quarter, you will submit lab reports by creating a PDF and uploading it to Canvas. Recommended apps for this purpose include GeniusScan and CamScanner. Please avoid using Adobe apps, as the resulting files are often too large to read. Make sure all documents are scanned and combined into a single PDF file with a clear file name. It is difficult to grade multiple image files.

After you finish a laboratory experiment, you must complete the lab report and turn it in on Canvas one week later. Lab reports can be turned in up to one day late for a 25% penalty. After that, there will be a 50% penalty.

III. Course Requirements and Grading

Component	Points	Approx. % of Grade
Safety Quiz	20	3
Prelabs (8)	40	6
Lab Reports (8)	160	26
Exam 1 Lowest dropped	100	16
Exam 2 Lowest dropped	100	16
Exam 3 Lowest dropped	100	-
Final Exam	200	32
TOTAL	**620**	**100**

Grade breakdowns are as follows:

Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Letter Grade
95+%	A+	72-76%	C+
90-94%	A	65-71%	C
87-89%	A-	60-64%	D+
84-86%	B+	55-59%	D
80-83%	B	50-54%	D-
77-79%	B-	<50%	F

IV. Academic Honesty

- Cheating will result in a 0 grade for the assigned work in question and a warning. Further cheating will subject you to increasing disciplinary measures, including referral to the Vice President of Student Services for disciplinary action.
- Good rules of thumb:
  - Do not look directly at other students' work or let others look directly at your work.
  - Do not browse the internet or send text messages during exams.

V. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The mission of Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) is to ensure access to the college's curriculum, facilities, and programs, and to promote student success in realizing individual educational and vocational goals. DSPS includes on- and off-campus programs and services offering students with disabilities a comprehensive array of accommodations, educational assistance classes and support services. Find out more about their services by going to Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS). You can sign up to speak with a counselor online or request assistance by email (dss@deanza.edu) or phone [(408) 864-8838].

VI. Flexibility Clause

There may be a need to make changes to this syllabus over the course of the semester. Students will be given as much notice as possible if any changes need to be made.

Lecture and Lab Schedule with Textbook Chapters:

	Week	Monday	Wednesday	Monday Lab (lab manual #)
Week of Sept 20	1	Ch. 1 and 2	Ch. 2 and Ch. 3	Check-in
Week of Sept 27	2	Ch. 3 and Ch. 4	Ch. 4 and Ch. 5	Measurements (2)
Week of Oct 4	3	Exam 1	Ch. 5	Density & Gravity (3)
Week of Oct 11	4	Ch. 6	Ch. 6	Atomic Structure (4)

	Week	Monday	Wednesday	Monday Lab (lab manual #)
Week of Oct 18	5	Ch. 7	Ch. 7	Ionic Compounds (5)
Week of Oct 25	6	Exam 2	Ch. 8	Empirical Formulas (8)
Week of Nov 1	7	Ch. 8/Ch 9	Ch. 9/Ch. 11	Chemical Reactions (7)
Week of Nov 8	8	Ch. 11	Veteran's Day No Lecture	*No Prelab – Calculations Review*
Week of Nov 15	9	Ch. 11/Ch. 13	Exam 3	Vinegar Analysis (10)
Week of Nov 22	10	Ch. 13/Ch. 14	Ch. 14	Covalent Compounds (6)
Week of Nov 29	11	Ch. 10	Ch. 10	Check-out
Week of Dec 6	12	Final Exam 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm	-	-

VII. Homework and Learning Strategies

Chemistry 25 is considered to be a quite difficult course. It is critical that you dedicate sufficient time to study the lecture material and prepare for each lab period.

Suggestions:

1) Prior to the lecture, **review** the textbook sections that are going to be discussed.
2) Prior to each lab, carefully **review** the lab procedure, do the pre-lab, and **submit** the prelab in Canvas prior to your laboratory section.
3) **Dedicate** a significant amount of time to completing the **Chapter Problems** that are in the textbook. The odd-answers are posted for those questions. It is imperative that you do not fall behind on lecture material.
4) Try to do the laboratory report(s) on the weekend after the lab(s). Then **post** them on Canvas once completed. That way, you can use the weekdays to keep up the lecture material, do the chapter problems, and prepare for the exams.
5) **Ask** questions of your classmates and the professor.
6) **Use** other material on the internet to help with studying and learning the material.

VIII. Laboratory Policies

Safety Contract and Laboratory Rules

De Anza College's laboratory safety contract is available on Canvas. The safety contract *summarizes* safety rules, precautions, and practices for the course. **A signature is required before the first lab**

experiment session, and failure to sign the safety contract will result in your withdrawal from the course. In addition, you must complete the safety exam in Canvas is required before the first actual lab experiment.

Safety is our first concern in the chemistry lab. You must follow the safety rules and instructor's directions in the lab. In addition, it is particularly important to have your cell phones in your backpack, dress appropriately, and never eat or drink in the lab.

Food, drinks, cell phones, and other electronic devices are NOT allowed in the lab for two reasons: 1) they may be a distraction while you (or others) are working with hazardous reagents and 2) these easily can be contaminated with chemicals from the laboratory. Food and drinks should be left inside your backpack. If needed, you can leave the room for a short time, but please avoid excessive exit/entry from the lab and never leave a lab experiment unattended.

Personal Safety Equipment Requirements

Students are required to use safety glasses or goggles during the lab experiments. The Department will provide goggles to be checked out for the lab period, so you are not required to purchase goggles. These goggles are shared amongst our chemistry students, so you are encouraged to bring your own – especially if you plan to take other lab courses at De Anza College. Lab goggles can be purchased from the campus bookstore.

It is absolutely mandatory that you dress appropriately for lab. Loose, baggy clothing is discouraged. Long hair must be pulled back; full-length shirts (covering the midsection) and long pants are required during lab days. *You must wear flat, closed-toe, closed-heel shoes*. Students violating these clothing and safety requirements will not be allowed in the laboratory.

Lab Manual and Pre-Lab Assignments

For each lab session, you are required to (1) thoroughly read the laboratory protocol in the lab manual (**see the schedule above**), (2) complete the pre-lab assignment in your lab notebook and (3) post the prelab into Canvas prior to the start of the lab period. **All pre-labs are due at the start of the lab session to ensure preparation**. If you do not have your prelab ready or are not dressed properly for safety requirements, you will need to leave the lab session and will receive a 0 for the lab. Preparation is required for your safety as well as the safety of your fellow students.

Prelabs must be complete and submitted in Canvas prior to the lab class.

Lab Attendance

The laboratory activities – lab experiments and work sessions – are essential for this course. Understanding chemistry requires that you learn laboratory techniques, so if you are absent two (2) or more lab meetings during the semester, you will be given an F for the course.

At the start of each lab, there will be a short pre-lab lecture. During the pre-lab lecture, important safety information and chemical handling procedures (if any) will be reviewed. Thus, it is essential that everyone arrive to lab on-time. If you arrive late and miss any portion of the pre-lab lecture, you may

not be allowed to participate in lab. **There are no make-up labs**. If you are unable to make it to a lab, please let your lab instructor know as soon as possible by e-mail/Canvas.

Lab Reports and Lab Grades

After you finish a laboratory experiment, you must complete the entire lab report and turn it **one week later on Canvas.** Requirements and due dates will be posted on Canvas.

Lab Reports are due one week after the completion of the lab and submitted in Canvas.

Unless otherwise instructed, you may NEVER submit a report for a lab that you were absent from. Also, you may be working in pairs or groups, but it is essential that your lab reports and work sessions represents your own work and may not be copied from others – including AI-generated materials. Falsifying records, changing data entries, copying a lab report (or portions of a prelab, lab report, or worksheet) are forms of academic dishonesty and violate De Anza College's policies.

Unauthorized Experiments

Unauthorized experiments are expressly forbidden. Anyone conducting unauthorized experiments will be removed from the class immediately, and a report will be filed with the Division Dean and Vice-President of Student Services.

Lab Accidents/Injuries

Accidents and spills can happen in the lab. While accidents do not affect your grade - unless they result from disruptive behavior or unauthorized experiments - how you deal with the accident and/or injury is important. No matter how trivial the accident may be, please notify your instructor without delay.

Chemistry Laboratory Safety Rules

Any student who disregards safety rules may have his/her overall grade lowered at the discretion of the instructor. Consistent failure to follow these rules or serious infractions may result in outright expulsion from the course.

Locker Policy

If you are provided a lab locker for the quarter, you are required to officially check out of that locker, whether you complete the course or not. Failure to check out of your lab locker by the official checkout date may result in your grades being held and/or a block being placed on your future registration.

IX Information and Campus Policies

Nondiscrimination Statement

The college, the district and their representatives shall provide access to services, classes and programs without regard to national origin, immigration status, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because

someone is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Student Help and Support

De Anza College is here to support you with many Student Services.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Assess the fundamental concepts of modern atomic and molecular theory.
- Evaluate the standard classes of chemical reactions.
- Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of mathematical concepts pertaining to chemical experimentation and calculations.

Office Hours:

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	2nd Floor Science Center offices	T,TH