



Course Syllabus: General Chemistry I
College of MCOSME
CHEM 1143 Section 201
Spring of 2026, 9:30-10:50 am (TR)

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jianguo Shao
Office: Bolin-307D
Office hours: 2:00 – 4:00 pm (TWR)
Office phone: (940) 397-4463
E-mail: Jianguo.shao@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course introduces students to the core principles of chemistry and it covers atomic structure, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, states of matter, thermochemistry, and the basics of chemical reactions. This course is designed to provide STEM students a solid theoretical foundation for advanced studies in science and engineering.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

E-Textbook (free of charge): [Openstax-chemistry book](#);
Supplemental book: "[Preparing for Your ACS Examination in General Chemistry, 2nd Edition](#)".

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

T Professors hold office hours to help you ask questions, work through problems, and clarify course material—make use of this time. If you need additional support, the **TASP Learning Center** offers free help with assignments. For more personalized assistance, private tutors are available for an hourly rate; please see the office assistant for the current list of available tutors. This course will meet MWF 8:00 – 8:50 am. Free tutoring assistance is provided by MSU Tutoring Center. Please check its schedule posted on D2L.

Youtube, chemreview, Khan Academy, Study Monkey, and Quizlet are all very good options to look up videos, examples, demonstrations, extra problems, and practice problems.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading Scale

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points	(%)
Three 80-min exams @ 100 pts each	300	33.4%
Final ACS Exam	200	22.2%
Homework Sets (<i>via Macmillan</i>)	200	22.2%
Online Quizzes (<i>via D2L</i>)	100	11.1%
Class Attendance	100	11.1%
TOTAL Assignments	900	100%

Table 2: Percentage for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	$\geq 90\%$
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	55 – 69%
F	$< 55\%$

Quizzes

Ten quizzes will be given online via D2L. It will happen after each chapter has been taught. An announcement will be made to remind the release of a new quiz. Each new quiz will be opened in D2L for 3 days.

Exams

This course includes three one-hour exams and one final ACS exam. The point assigned for each exam is listed in Table 1 above. The style of all exams is multiple choice. The final exam will be given on May 12, 2026, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, in Bolin-306.

Late Work

All work must be completed based on the announced due date. Late work is NOT acceptable.

Make Up Work/Tests

Under no circumstances will make-up exams or other assignments be given. Make-up for major exams will be given for excused absence only.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Jan. 20 – 23, 2026, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: 02/16/2026, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 04/29/2026, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Attendance is required as stated in the Student Handbook. Excessive unexcused absences will result in an instructor drop with a grade of "F".

Online Computer Requirements – AI Policy

AI is a tool to help organize notes, for study help, and general questions. It is not to be used to create any working or written assignments that require your original work. Over 25% AI assignments will be a zero with no "redo".

Online Computer Requirements

This course requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Core Assessments

CHEM 1143 is a core course. As such, the following assessments are required:

COURSE	Objective: Assignment
CHEM 1143	Quantitative Analysis: ACS final Calculations; Assessment of quantities and units for problem solving and dimensional analysis
	Critical Thinking and Communication: Chemistry in Careers summary of peer-reviewed journal article; assessment of importance and connection to chosen career field with chemistry concepts

Course Schedule

Date(s)	Chapter	Topic
Jan. 20 – 22	1	Introduction: Matter and Measurement
Jan. 27 – Feb. 03	2	Atoms, Molecules, and Ions
Feb. 05 – 12	3	Chemical Reactions and Reaction Stoichiometry
Feb. 17	Exam 1	Chapters 1 – 3
Feb. 19 – 26	4	Reactions in Aqueous Solution
Mar. 03 – 05	10	Gases and Gas Laws
<i>Mar. 09 – 13</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Class</i>
Mar. 17 – 19	5	Thermochemistry
Mar. 24 – 31	6	Electronic Structure of Atoms
<i>Apr. 02 – 03</i>	<i>Holiday Break</i>	<i>No Class</i>
Apr. 07	Exam 2	Chapters 4 – 6 & 10
Apr. 09 – 14	7	Periodic Properties of the Elements
Apr. 16	Assessments	Chemistry in Careers (core assessment: critical thinking, communication)
Apr. 21 – 23	8	Basic Concepts of Chemical Bonding
Apr. 28 – May 05	9	Molecular Geometry and Bonding Theories
May 07	Exam 3	Chapters 5, 6, 7
May 12	Final Exam	ACS Final (core assessment: quantitative analysis); (8:00 – 10:00 am, Bolin-306)