



Course Syllabus: Intro Environmental Chemistry
College of MCOSME
CHEM 3504 Section 101 (Graduate)
Fall of 2026, 11:00 am - 12:20 pm (TR)

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jianguo Shao
Office: Bolin-307D
Office hours: 9 – 11 am (TR); 2 – 4 pm (TR)
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Course Description

This course introduces the chemical principles that shape environmental processes in the atmosphere, water, soil, and living systems. Students examine chemical equilibria, acid-base and redox reactions, atmospheric chemistry and air pollution, water chemistry and treatment, soil and contaminant behavior, and the chemistry behind energy use and climate change. Emphasis is placed on applying chemical concepts to real environmental issues, interpreting data, and evaluating strategies for pollution control and sustainability. The course provides a solid foundation for further study in environmental science, public health, and green chemistry.

Graduate credit permits an additional level of analysis, application, evaluation, and knowledge synthesis

Textbook & Instructional Materials

"Chemistry of the Environment" authored by Spiro, Purvis-Roberts, Stigliani, 3rd ed., Published by University Science Books, 2012

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

This course will meet TR 11:00 am – 12:20 pm. Free tutoring assistance is NOT provided by MSU Tutoring Center. Students should bring questions to the instructor directly during the office hours assigned or by appointment.

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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	(%)
3 one-hour exams @ 100 pts each	300	37.5%
Final Exam	200	25.0%
2 – 4 paper reviewing	100	12.5%
10 Quizzes @ 20 pts each	200	12.5%
TOTAL Assignments	800	100%

Table 2: Percentage for final grade.

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

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in person; no online quizzes will be provided.

Exams

This course includes three one-hour exams and one final exam. The points assigned for each exam are listed in Table 1 above. The style of all exams is open-ended. The final exam will be given on Dec. 08, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, in Bolin-309.

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: Aug, 24 – 27, 2026, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: 09/21/2026, Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 11/23/2026, 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".

Graduate Credit

Graduate students enrolled in this course will complete two to four additional assignments. These involve reading environmental chemistry research articles and answering targeted questions. Additionally, their quizzes and exams will feature modified questions designed to challenge them at a high level.

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](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or

published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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.

Course Schedule

Date(s)	Chapter	Topic
Aug. 25 – 27	1 & 2	Sustainability and Green Chemistry
Sept. 01 – 08	7 & 8	Energy of Fossil Fuels
Sept. 10 – 15	9	Nuclear Energy
Sept. 17 – 22	10 & 11	Renewable Energy
<i>Sept. 24</i>	<i>TEST-1</i>	<i>Chapters 1, 2, 7 – 11</i>
Sept. 29 – Oct. 01	3	Earth's Atmosphere
Oct. 06 – 08	4	Global Warming and Climate Change
Oct. 13 – 15	5	Chemistry of Troposphere
Oct. 20 – 22	6	Chemistry of Stratosphere
<i>Oct. 27</i>	<i>TEST-2</i>	<i>Chapters 3 – 6</i>
Oct. 29 – Nov. 03	12	Water Resources
Nov. 05 – 10	13	Water Pollution and Treatment
Nov. 12 – 19	14	Planet Earth: Rock, Life and Energy
<i>Nov. 26</i>	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Nov. 24 – Dec. 01	15	Earth's Soil and Agriculture
<i>Dec. 03</i>	<i>TEST-3</i>	<i>Chapters 12 – 15</i>
Dec. 08	FINAL TEST	Comprehensive, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (Bolin-309)