

CHEM 1303 GENERAL-ORGANIC-BIOL CHEMISTRY

Spring 2026 Syllabus online

Course Instructor

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Office: Bolin Hall 307E

Class Website: D2L website

Homework: MasteringChemistry in D2L

Office Hour: MW 10:00-12:00 pm; F 10:00-11:00 am by appointment

Purpose of the Syllabus

The purpose of the syllabus is to inform you about course expectations, policies, and content. Ignorance of course policies because you did not read your syllabus will not be an acceptable excuse for not adhering to these policies. Because the syllabus is also available online, you cannot lose it. By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the course, you affirm that you understand the contents of this syllabus and that you will adhere to its requirements.

Prerequisites

Math 1003, Math THEA > 270, math Accuplacer > 90, or satisfactory score on placement exam.

Required Textbook and Materials

Laura Frost and Todd Deal, General, Organic, and Biological *Chemistry*: 4rd ed. 2020 Pearson [REQUIRED – *you will be expected to actually read the text and do the problems, so you will need this book*].

1. Your materials will be available the first day of class, for all students in the class. To access your materials, please log into D2L and navigate to your course.
2. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to “opt out” of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the “opt out” instructions in your my.msutexas.edu email on the first day of class. If you “opt out” of this lower priced option for your course content, the material will be removed from your D2L account and you will need to purchase the material on your own, at a higher cost to you.
3. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the MSU Bookstore (940) 397-4303.

A scientific calculator of some kind is required.

Computer (laptop/desktop, not including Chromebook) is required for online session.

Webcam is required for this class, please set it up as early as possible.

Lecture Attendance Policies

1. Online lecture video has posted in D2L, it is your responsibility to watch the video and follow the class schedule to study.
2. No make-ups will be given for missed quizzes or assignments.
3. No make-ups will be given for exams; however, under special circumstances (see section on exams), consideration will be given and a substitute grade offered.
4. No one is allowed to miss the final. Missing the final exam will result in an “F” for the course.

Late Assignment Policies

1. All assignments are to be turned in at Mastering Chemistry Assignment in D2L.
2. Electronic deadline of all the homework are posted on the following table.

3. Assignments are posted or assigned in advance and due dates will be clearly indicated; there is no excuse for not turning in homework on time. It is YOUR responsibility to pay attention to deadlines.
4. No late assignments will be accepted from any student for any reason.

Homework	Due Date
Homework Chapter 1	Feb 3, 2026
Homework Chapter 2	Feb 12, 2026
Homework Chapter 3	Feb 19, 2026
Homework Chapter 4	Mar 5, 2026
Homework Chapter 5	Mar 19, 2026
Homework Chapter 6	Apr 7, 2026
Homework Chapter 7	Apr 16, 2026
Homework Chapter 8	Apr 28, 2026
Homework Chapter 9	May 5, 2026
Homework Chapter 10	Practice only

Quiz Policies

1. Quizzes will be given in the D2L at beginning of the class and the due date for each quiz is posted.

Name of the Quiz	Due Date
Quiz #1	Feb 24, 2026
Quiz #2	Feb 24, 2026
Quiz #3	Feb 24, 2026
Quiz #4	Feb 24, 2026
Quiz #5	Apr 9, 2026
Quiz #6	Apr 9, 2026
Quiz #7	Apr 9, 2026
Quiz #8	May 7, 2026
Quiz #9	May 7, 2026
Quiz #10	May 7, 2026

- a. Each quiz will be worth 15 points and there will be a total of 10 quizzes.
 - b. You will have no more than 15 minutes to take each quiz.
 - c. Quizzes may include problems from the book or new questions not from the book. Problems will be representative of what you may expect on the exams.
 - d. Disability students must take their quizzes under the same conditions as all other students.
 - e. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.
 - f. I will use Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor to monitor and record you during the quizzes if you take the quiz online.
 - g. Lockdown Browser is NOT compatible with Chromebook Laptops or mobiles devices. iPad and regular PCs are the only devices that are compatible with such software.
 - h. Although quizzes will be administered online, treat them as though you were in a proctored classroom setting. That means not looking up answers online or in your notes. If you spend time searching for answers you may not complete the exam within the allotted timeframe.
2. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped to allow for one absence or one "bad day". If you miss more than one quiz, the resulting zeros will be incorporated into your quiz score.

Exam Policies

Exams	Cover Chapters	Date
Midterm Exam #1	Chapter 1-4	Feb 24, 2026
Midterm Exam #2	Chapter 5-7	Apr 9, 2026
Midterm Exam #3	Chapter 8-10	May 7, 2026
Final Exam	Chapter 1-10	May 14, 2026

- There will be 3 (three) midterms and 1 (one) comprehensive final exam.
 - Exam dates are listed on the Lecture Schedule and will not be moved.
 - No make-up midterms will be offered if the midterm is missed, regardless of the reason.
 - Students are not allowed to miss the final exam. Failure to take the final exam will result in an F in the course. All graduating seniors are required to take the final exam.
- Students with a legitimate, excusable reason for missing the midterm will be given consideration and a make-up exam will be offered.

Excusable reasons for missing an exam include the following:

- Extreme and verifiable illness (colds and elective procedures don't count and you must have a doctor's note verifying you could not come the actual day of the exam)
- If you are quarantine because of COVID-19, students must report to MSU and provide the letter either from Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities or medical doctor.
- Accident or injury (must present verification, e.g., tow slip, emergency room documentation)
- MSU sanctioned event (you must be an active participant, not support staff)
- Extreme family emergency (e.g., funeral the day of the exam; must show proof; immediate family only – best friends, great aunts, etc. don't count)
- Students **MUST** notify me, the instructor, **PRIOR** to the *start* of the exam to receive consideration for an excused absence. If you are physically unable to notify me, then have a friend or family member notify me. Notifying me after the fact will result in an unexcused absence and a zero for the exam.

Inexcusable reasons for missing an exam include the following:

- Scheduling doctor/dentist, therapy or other appointments for the day/time of the exam (possible exception: court dates). Note: you can control when your appointments are even if you are told "this is the only time you can come in", so scheduling conflicts are not an excuse to miss the exam.
- Failure to show up (missed bus, forgot you had an exam, slept in, car problems, etc.). Emphasis: do NOT sleep through exams – you are all adults and you should act like it.
- Weather; if MSU is open, then you must be here, so if bad weather is forecast, prepare for it. It is your responsibility to check the MSU website for information on weather closures or delays.
- Congested exam schedule or overlapping classes
- Failure to obtain babysitter or caregiver
- Work schedule conflict

In general, none of these excuses will be accepted for missed exams as all of them stem from a lack of responsibility on the part of the student to maintain control over their own schedules. You know exactly when your exams are scheduled, and you should make every effort to take them.

Absolutely no electronic devices of any kind may be used during exams. All exams are closed book and will be monitored for cheating. If you are caught doing anything suspicious, your exam will be taken away from you and you will receive an automatic zero for the exam.

University-Sponsored Teams and Organizations

All members of in-season sports teams or other campus organizations who will be missing class because of university sanctioned events **MUST** present to me a written statement on university

letterhead and signed by a university official indicating those dates that will be missed because of travel or participation in the university-sponsored event. Athletics documentation must be presented to me within the first 2 weeks of the beginning of the semester. Other documentation (such as for theater, etc.) must be presented to me at least one week prior to the time that will be missed.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are required to register with Disability Support Services (DSS) before classroom accommodations can be provided. The instructor then needs to be notified by the student of the nature of these accommodations. This notification will take the form of an official letter obtained from DSS by the student and given to the instructor. Every effort should be made to provide me with this documentation within the first 2 weeks of the semester to avoid losing accommodations because you failed to provide proper notification in a timely manner. It is always the responsibility of the student to arrange accommodations with DSS. Students with disabilities must still take their exams on the same day as the rest of the class.

University Code of Conduct

For university standards of conduct please refer to the MSU Student Handbook. In general, students are to attend all meetings of all classes; instructors may drop students for excessive absences, indifference, disruptive behavior, or failure to complete class assignments; students are prohibited from cheating, plagiarizing, or colluding. Students are expected to have read the Student Handbook.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion (as well as several other forms of conduct) are all strictly prohibited at MSU. Please read the MSU Student Handbook definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and collusion and MAKE SURE that you do not engage in any of these behaviors. If you are unclear on what may count as cheating, plagiarism, or collusion, please see the instructor or the Dean of Students. Plagiarism hurts everyone and is never acceptable.

Instructor Drops

According to the 2012-2013 MSU Student Handbook, p. 47, "An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct." For the purposes of this course, "consistently failing to meet class assignments" includes consistently not turning in assigned work or turning in work that consistently receives a failing grade.

Intellectual Property

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Student Resources

To help achieve the vision of "STEM leadership--Diverse scholarship" the McCoy College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering (MCOSME) students benefit from the numerous offices and student services available on the MSU campus. Below are links to these resources and information on what they provide. https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/student_resources.php

Final Grade Assessment

Final grades will be calculated using the following distributions:

Midterm Exams (3 @ 100pts each)	55%
Quizzes (10 @ 15pts each; lowest dropped)	15%

Homework (Class Assigned)	10%
Final Exam	20%

Midterm and Final Exams will be multiple-choice. All exams will be a significant test of your ability to understand both detail and context and use your knowledge to solve problems.

Important: Based on experience, students with a failing quiz average at the time of the first midterm who then fail Midterm 1 go on to get Ds or Fs in the class. If you are struggling, it is recommended that you come see me EARLY in the semester. I cannot help you if you do not make the effort to come see me.

Overall, final course grades will be based on the following scale: A (90% or higher); B (80-89.9%); C (70-79.9%); D (60-69.9%); F (59.9% or less). If you do not get 90% or better on every assignment, you should not expect to get an A in the course. There will be no extra credit offered or adjustments made to the class.

Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Jan 20	Course Introduction; Cp. 1 Chemistry Basics: Matter & Measurement	Mar 17	Cp. 6 Carbohydrates: Life's Sweet Molecules
Jan 22	Cp. 1 Chemistry Basics: Matter & Measurement	Mar 19	Cp. 6 Carbohydrates: Life's Sweet Molecules
Jan 27	Cp. 1 Chemistry Basics: Matter & Measurement	Mar 24	Cp. 7 What's the Attraction? Gas Law, State Changes, Solubility and Lipids
Jan 29	Cp. 2 Atoms and Radioactivity	Mar 26	Cp. 7 What's the Attraction? Gas Law, State Changes, Solubility and Lipids
Feb 3	Cp. 2 Atoms and Radioactivity	Mar 31	Cp. 7 What's the Attraction? Gas Law, State Changes, Solubility and Lipids
Feb 5	Cp. 3 Compounds: How Elements Combine	Apr 2	Easter Holiday
Feb 10	Cp. 3 Compounds: How Elements Combine	Apr 7	Cp. 7 What's the Attraction? Gas Law, State Changes, Solubility and Lipids
Feb 12	Cp. 3 Compounds: How Elements Combine	Apr 9	Exam 2: Chapters 5-7
Feb 17	Cp. 4 Introduction to Organic Compounds	Apr 14	Cp. 8 Solution Chemistry: How Sweet is Your Coffee?
Feb 19	Cp. 4 Introduction to Organic Compounds	Apr 16	Cp. 8 Solution Chemistry: How Sweet is Your Coffee?
Feb 24	Exam 1: Chapters 1-4	Apr 21	Cp. 9 Acid, Base, and Buffers in the Body
Feb 26	Cp. 5 Chemical Reactions	Apr 23	Cp. 9 Acid, Base, and Buffers in the Body
Mar 3	Cp. 5 Chemical Reactions	Apr 28	Cp. 9 Acid, Base, and Buffers in the Body
Mar 5	Cp. 5 Chemical Reactions	Apr 30	Cp. 10 Proteins: Worker of the Cell
Mar 10	Spring Break	May 5	Cp. 10 Proteins: Worker of the Cell
Mar 12	Spring Break	May 7	Exam 3: Chapters 8-10

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 8:00-10:00 am

NOTE: GRADUATING SENIORS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FINAL. Seniors do not get a pass just because they are graduating, and if you need a specific grade to ensure that you graduate, you need to start working on that grade on the first day of class.