
CHEM 188: First-Year Seminar

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Office Hours:

MWF 9:15 – 10:55 am 320 Caputo Hall

Meeting Times:

Fridays 12:00 – 12:50 pm 153 Roddy Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides both inquiry and practical information regarding ethical and societal impacts of chemistry, global expectations of chemists, chemists' view of themselves, motivations of chemists, the current job market, popular career outcomes, university resources, departmental historical outcomes, departmental culture, and community. Active participants develop professional familiarity with the chemistry department staff, faculty, upper-level students, facilities, and resources. Due to the rigorous nature of a chemical science education, effective time management, scheduling, goals, and skill development are underlying themes of this course. Students will create individualized academic plans as a means to learn about and practice scheduling chemistry courses and general education requirements. Requisite study habits necessary for professional success will also be explored.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- Determination to succeed
- Personal Planner (to be discussed during first class meeting)
- Chemistry Department Student Handbook (<http://bit.ly/2uakz3y>)
- Daily access to your Millersville email account and your Desire to Learn (D2L) account.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of CHEM 188 you should be able to...

1. Use resources and academic requirements to efficiently plan, utilize, and make the most of your time
2. Describe the impact of chemistry upon society
3. Describe how society views chemistry
4. Describe and explore available undergraduate research opportunities at MU & beyond
5. Describe and explore potential professional, career, and education options within, and related to, chemistry
6. Further your goals through professional interactions with your peers, upper-level majors, staff, and faculty
7. Join the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the MU Student Chapter
8. Describe common study habits, learning strategies, methods, and metacognitive awareness
9. Effectively communicate your professional goals to a general audience
10. Effectively research, organize, and present chemical information

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This is a blended course in which new topics and assignments are first presented online via the D2L course website, or via handouts and required reading, or during class time via lecture and discussion.

Curious, have questions about the university, chemistry, or need help?

Please stop by my office during office hours for assistance outside of class. Ask me questions during class. Set up an appointment via email if office hours do not fit your schedule. Email me your question. Start a discussion on D2L.

COURSE POLICY

1. *Attendance* is required. <http://bit.ly/2uMW9Lh> For every class meeting that you miss, 50 points will be deducted from your final score. For example, if you turn in every assignment for 1000 points, but miss 5 classes at 50 points each, then your final course grade in total points would be 750 out of 1000 points; a C letter grade in CHEM 188. I urge you to review the Millersville University ***Class Attendance*** policy, which may be found here: <http://bit.ly/2sLDJcF>
2. *Participation* is expected in class discussions, interactions with guest speakers, and group assignments.

Tentative weekly schedule for Mondays from 12:00 to 12:50 pm in 153 Roddy Hall

Week	Date	Topics*	Assignments (Due Date)
1	August 22	Welcome, HS vs. MU, & Time Management	<i>Detailed Weekly Schedule (8/29) Study Plans (8/29)</i>
2	August 29	Study Plans Discussed, Interests, & Talents vs. Abilities, Picture day!	<i>Eight Study Habits & Interests essay (9/12)</i>
3	September 5	<i>Holiday – No Class This Week</i>	
4	September 12	Motivation, Chemical Jobs, Careers, & Callings	<i>Why Chemistry? & Long-Term Goals two-page essay (9/19)</i> <i>Chemistry in the news item email (10/3)</i>
5	September 19	Resume & cover letter	<i>Cover Letter, Personal Statement, & Resume (12/5)</i>
6	September 26	Academic Plans, Registration, & Networking	<i>Advisor Meeting (10/24) Spring 2020 Class Schedule & 4-Year Academic Plan (10/24)</i>
7	October 3	Classes, Internships, & Undergraduate Research Opportunities	
8	October 10	<i>Holiday – No Class This Week</i>	
9	October 17	Stress, Study Habits Review, Learning, Sci-Finder	<i>Seminar Attendance (12/5)</i>
10	October 24	Chemistry in the News & Library Resources (Melissa Gold)	<i>Chemistry in the News Report (11/21)</i>
11	October 31	Commitments & Clubs, Department Resources	
12	November 7	Professor Maria Schiza (12:00 pm) & Professor Lyman Rickard (12:25 PM)	
13	November 14	Professor Jeremiah Mbindyo (12:00 PM) & Professor Steven Bonser (12:25 PM)	
14	November 21	Professor ...	
15	November 28	Professor Daniel Albert (12:00 pm) & Professor Kathryn Allen (12:25 PM)	
16	December 5	Professor Melissa Mullen Davis (12:00 pm) & Professor Aimee Miller (12:25 PM)	

*Order of topics and due dates are subject to change.

COURSE EVALUATION (1000 points possible)

<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed Weekly Schedule (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Study Plans (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Eight habits summary and Interests Essay (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Why Chemistry? & Long-Term Goals Essay (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Advisor Email & Signature (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring 2020 Schedule & 4-Year Academic Plan (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry News Top email (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry Seminar Attendance Signature & Notes (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry in the News Report (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover letter, personal statement, resume (100 points)	10 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	100 %

GRADE DISTRIBUTION (in percentage points)

A	92.0 – 100	B	82.0 – 87.9	C	70.0 – 77.9	D	62.0 – 66.9
A-	90.0 – 91.9	B-	80.0 – 81.9	C-	69.0 – 69.9	D-	60.0 – 61.9
B+	88.0 – 89.9	C+	78.0 – 79.9	D+	67.0 – 68.9	F	< 60.0

Academic Honesty & Dishonesty: plagiarism is the deliberate or accidental representation of another's work as one's own without proper reference. Although you may work together on some material, this does not mean that submitted assignments should be identical. Each participant uses the collective data and discussion to prepare his or her own individual report. Familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic honesty & dishonesty outlined in the Student

Handbook; the content applies to this course. Any incidence of academic dishonesty will result in an F letter grade for the course, and a report will be filed with the associate Provost for Academic Programs and Services. <http://bit.ly/2sLDJcF>