

FYEX 100: Chemistry in Your Life

Dr. Dan Albert

Fall 2025

Welcome

Welcome to FYEX 100! I'm excited to have you in this course and look forward to working together to help you achieve success. I know for me this semester brings feelings of excitement but also nervousness about how everything will go. I can't guarantee any particular outcome. I will guarantee that I will be flexible, listen to you, and clearly communicate with you as the semester goes along. I ask you to do the same and know that together we will make this semester a good experience.

Dr. Albert Contact Information

email: daniel.albert@millersville.edu

phone: 717-871-7391

office: Caputo Hall 214

The best way to reach me is via university email.

Office Hours

Office Hours are a great opportunity to get individualized support from me. All Office Hours will be held in Caputo 214 and are open to all students in the course. If you need to meet at a different time or have a private matter to discuss, please contact me and I would be happy to set-up an individual meeting with you. The scheduled times for Office Hours are as follows:

- Mondays from 11 am - 1 pm
- Tuesdays from 9 am- 10 am
- Wednesdays from 2 pm - 3 pm
- Fridays from 9 am - 10 am

If you cannot make it to office hours please feel free to set-up an alternative time to meet by corresponding with me via email.

Course Description

Chemistry is all around us including the colors we see, the food we eat, and the materials we use every day. This course will examine the chemistry of the world around us. We will discuss properties of molecules and light and learn what comprises the materials we use in daily life. This course does not have a laboratory component, but some hands-on activities will be incorporated.

Course Purpose

We want you to have a successful start to your academic career here at Millersville! This will be achieved by building a community that supports each other and helps connect to opportunities available across campus. We also want to build foundational skills and use those skills to better understand the importance of energy and energy storage in the modern world and the role chemistry plays in understanding energy technology.

Cornerstone FYEX Student Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate autonomy and competence in planning for personal and academic goals.
- Identify resources and practice strategies to support personal and academic success.
- Develop effective communication skills, critical thinking skills and dispositions, and information literacy skills to explore academic content.
- Recognize the value of diverse perspectives as a citizen of the university community.

Course Learning Objectives

- Explore the relevance of chemistry in everyday society and explain how it connects with your career goals.
- Build information literacy skills by using available resources to learn more about a chemistry topic.
- Examine study habits and class performance via self-reflection and meta-cognition.
- Explore personal career goals, identify skills necessary to achieve those goals, and articulate what opportunities can be used to develop those skills.
- Utilize university resources to develop an academic and extracurricular plan that supports your goals.
- Explore supportive communities at Millersville and reflect on your experiences.

Meeting Times

MWF from 10:00 - 10:50 am in 211 Caputo Hall

Required Materials

- Textbook: This course will use freely available Open Educational Resources that will be distributed through D2L. The main textbooks for the course are Future Energy: Opportunities and Challenges by Thomas Kerlin and College Success from OpenStax.
- Calculator capable of using exponents.
- Regular access to D2L (<https://millersville.desire2learn.com/>) and university email.

Class Environment

I value a learning environment that is engaging, respectful, and helpful. I ask that you help maintain a learning environment that meets these goals for everyone in the class. Anyone whose behavior is disruptive of the learning environment for others in the class will be asked to leave.

My goal is for you to feel comfortable, appreciated, fairly treated, and encouraged to challenge yourself and obtain success. *Please come talk to me if there is anything I can do to help support you in achieving success.*

Title IX

Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, Title IX requires University faculty members to report incidents of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence, shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Accordingly, if a student shares information about any incidents of sexual discrimination or sexual violence during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or in other contexts, faculty must report that information to the Title IX Coordinator. This information will only be shared with the Title IX Coordinator, who is the individual on campus designated to respond to reports of discrimination or sexual violence. While the Title IX Coordinator is not a confidential source of support, they will address matters reported to them with sensitivity and will keep your information as private as possible.

Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred,

to the person designated in the University Protection of Minors policy.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: [www http://www.millersville.edu/titleix](http://www.millersville.edu/titleix)

Grading

All grades in this course are assigned by the instructor of record. Your grade in this course will be calculated using the following components and weighting.

Category	% of Total
In-Class Activities	20
Quizzes	20
Transition Topics	20
Homework Assignments	20
Poster Presentation & Development	20
Total	100

In-Class Activities

We will routinely have activities that are completed during the class period that require active attendance and participation. Grades for these in-class assignments will be determined based on effort and engagement. The lowest in-class activity grade will be dropped from your overall grade.

Quizzes

We will have weekly open note quizzes in class about the topics from the previous week (Chemistry Topics and Transition Topics). The material for the quizzes will be based on in-class activities and readings from the previous week. The lowest quiz in this category will be dropped from your overall grade.

Transition Topics

Engaging in activities and assignments that are designed to assist your transition to Millersville are key elements of our course. This includes activities based on Goal Setting, Metacognition, Student Support, Career Exploration, Information Literacy, Financial Literacy, Campus Safety, Inclusive Excellence, Wellness, etc. Assignments related to these topics will be completed both inside and outside of class time. Reflection about the relevance of these

concepts and how you can/will put them into practice will be a key component of transition topic activities.

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be assigned weekly to support the learning of chemistry and energy concepts being developed in class. The lowest grade in the homework category will be dropped.

Poster Presentation & Development

Small group poster presentations will be developed to explore the total impact of various energy sources from economical, aesthetic, political, scientific, and environmental perspectives. The grades for this activity will involve the development of the poster and the poster presentation itself.

Attendance, Absences, and Make-Ups

Attendance and participation in class is expected. Please communicate with me if you need to miss class. We will work together to help you continue to make progress in the class.

Here are some examples of reasons why you may need to miss class or we may need to reschedule coursework.

- Required religious observation
- Participation in a Millersville University athletic event
- Armed forces related training or drills
- Medical Illness/Emergency
- Death in the family
- Special circumstances: Other special circumstances may arise. Communicate and we will work together.

Assistance

If you tell me that you are having trouble I will not judge you or think less of you. I am always here to listen and if I can not help you, I will find someone who can.

Counseling

People sometimes face challenges in their careers that interfere with their performance and goals. University Resources are available to help support you. The Counseling Center (717-871-7821) is an important resource for both mental health and substance abuse issues. Additional resources include: Health Services (717-871-5250), Center for Health Education and Promotion (717-871-4141), Campus Ministries, and Learning Services (717-871-5554).

Academic Honesty

The Millersville University Academic Honesty Policy states that:

Students of the University are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an examination, to allow another person to commit, or assist another in committing an act of academic dishonesty, corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced.

The entire academic honesty policy can be found at <http://www.millersville.edu/english/for-faculty/academic-integrity/index.php>

All work that is turned in for a grade should be completed individually by the person whose name appears on the work.

Millersville Policies

- Academic Honesty Policy Governance Manual (millersville.edu); for additional information please see the following: What is Academic Integrity?
- Attendance Policy: Class Attendance Policy
- Inclusion Statement: Millersville University Inclusion Statement
- Land Acknowledgement: Land Acknowledgement
- Policy on Delays and Cancellations: Policy on Delays & Cancellations
- Chosen Name FAQs: Preferred Name FAQs
- Privacy Rights under FERPA: Annual Notification of Student Rights Under FERPA
- Student Conduct and Community Standards Handbook: [studentcodeofconduct.pdf](#) (millersville.edu)

Suggestions for Course Success

This course is designed to help support you and orient you for your studies here at Millersville and to engage in chemistry topics relevant to your life. Expressing questions you have, difficulties you are experiencing, and sharing your experiences with others will help make this course the most beneficial for everyone. Lets build a community that is supportive in setting each other up for success. Staying actively involved and communicating throughout the semester are key skills that will help you be successful here.

Important Dates

Date	Event
9/1	No Classes for Labor Day
9/2	Last Day to Add or Drop a Course Online
10/13 and 10/14	No Classes for Fall Break
10/31	Last Day to Withdraw from Course and Receive a 'W'
11/26 - 11/30	No Classes for Thanksgiving Break
12/11	FYEX Final Presentations from 8 - 10 am

Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as needed. Any changes will be communicated via an in-class announcement.

Date	Chemistry Topic	Transition Topic
8/25	Energy Basics	Time Management
9/1	Energy Basics	Goal Setting
9/8	Energy Basics	Learning Support
9/15	Energy Sources	Reading and Note Taking
9/22	Energy Sources	Career Exploration
9/29	Energy Sources	Academic Planning
10/6	Light as Energy	Financial Literacy
10/13	Light as Energy	Planning and Goal Setting
10/20	Light as Energy	Library Resources
10/27	Materials for Energy Production and Storage	Inclusive Excellence
11/3	Materials for Energy Production and Storage	Financial Literacy
11/10	Materials for Energy Production and Storage	Learning Support
11/17	Environmental Impacts of Energy	Engaging in Healthy Lifestyle
11/24	Environmental Impacts of Energy	
12/1	Environmental Impacts of Energy	Communication
12/8		Communication