

Honors Chemistry Syllabus

Hampton Bays High School 2014 - 2015

Miss Valenti

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Welcome!

Welcome to Honors Chemistry! Chemistry is the study of what is happening "behind the scenes" in the world around us. We will be delving past the microscopic world into the world of atoms and molecules. Chemistry is a challenging subject; however chemistry is also very fun and exciting! My goal for the year is to make you question the world around you and to love chemistry as much as I do!

My Expectations

Come to class prepared and on time. When the bell rings you should be seated and ready to work. You are accountable and responsible for yourself, your actions, and your learning – being prepared is the first step! I expect that ALL of your work will be YOUR work. No copying!

Respect every individual in the classroom. Every person has the right to learn. Though chemistry is a class of open discussion, no communication can occur when everyone is trying to speak at the same time! I expect you to raise your hand when you would like to add to the conversation.

Cell phones should be kept away. Technology is a very useful tool in the academic environment; however, if it is being used at inappropriate times for inappropriate reasons your electronic device will be confiscated.

Follow all lab safety guidelines. A safety contract will be sent home on the first day of school. This contract outlines proper attire and behavior while in a lab environment. You MUST sign this contract in order to participate in labs. *New York State mandates 1200 minutes of laboratory work before a student can take the Regents Exam on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. All lab work must be submitted and logged by Friday, June 5, 2015.*

Be curious and ask questions. Curiosity is the fuel for experimentation and observation. If people never wondered and questioned the technological world as we know, it would not exist! Always ask why?!

In science, the question is sometimes more important than the answer.

Be persistent. In chemistry, the information that you are responsible for will continuously build upon itself. What you learn in the beginning of the year will repeat throughout the entire course. The beginning of the year will be more conceptual and abstract, while the second half of the year will be more mathematical. **Chemistry emphasizes problem solving over memorization, it takes PRACTICE.**

Class Materials

Materials you MUST bring to class:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| ✓ 3-ring binder with dividers | ✓ Pens and/or Pencils | ✓ Scientific Calculator* |
| ✓ Reference Tables** | ✓ 4-Pack of Dry Erase Markers (for in class use) | |

* Scientific calculators will also be available in class.

** Chemistry Reference Tables will be provided on the first day of school.

Textbook

Regents Review Book: [Chemistry: The Physical Setting.](#)

You will be told the day before if you will need your textbook for class. It will also be noted on the weekly "This Week in Chemistry" handout. This will be your own copy of the book, you may write in it.

Course Website

As stated above, my website is <http://mvalenti.weebly.com>. Here you will be able to find all of the documents for this course, as well as extra resources such as video tutorials and simulations to deepen understanding of some of the more abstract concepts. **You are responsible for printing out any documents you are missing.**

Types of Assignments

- ✓ **Catalyst Exercises** – A catalyst speeds up a chemical reaction by lowering the amount of energy needed to start the reaction. Therefore, the daily catalyst exercise may review material we have learned or introduce new material. Your catalyst exercise should be recorded on the weekly "Catalyst Recording Sheet" which should be handed in every Friday. If you are absent, you are not required to make up this assignment – write "absent" in the box corresponding to that day.
- ✓ **Worksheets** – Worksheets in this class will consist of a combination of reading comprehension, multiple choice, short answer, and fill in the blank questions. They may be checked for completion and checked during class or submitted and graded.
- ✓ **Labs** – New York State mandates that each student demonstrate 1200 minutes of laboratory work in order to take the Regents Exam in June. All labs will be kept on file as evidence that the student has completed the mandated minutes.

For each lab, a short lab report is required. These lab reports will be completed on a separate piece of paper and stapled to the back of the lab handout. These short reports must include: title, purpose, predictions, and conclusion. In general these will be started in class the day of the lab and will be due the following day. As an honors chemistry student, you will also be required to write extended lab reports for certain experiments.

- ✓ **Quizzes** – Quizzes will be given throughout each unit (generally once a week) and will consist of vocabulary and concepts. They will be based on the vocabulary covered in class and will contain regents questions that correspond to the topics covered.

Quiz corrections MUST be completed if you received less than a 75% on a quiz. They must be performed with me either before or after school. You must return your test to me with a date and time written on it for when you plan on coming to extra help for corrections by the end of the period that the test was returned. Corrections must include: test title, question number, the question itself (including multiple choice answers if applicable), your incorrect answer and why you answered that way, the correct answer and a reason why the new answer is correct.

- ✓ **Tests** – Unit tests are given at the end of each unit. They will consist of multiple choice and short answer Regents questions. Approximately 5-10 questions of the test will be dedicated to review questions. The remainder of the test will consist of material covered that unit. **There are NO test corrections.**
- ✓ **Projects** – Projects are designed to deepen your understanding of a particular chemistry topic. Projects will be discussed more in depth as they come up during the year.
- ✓ **Homework** – Every Monday you will receive a "This Week in Chemistry" handout. This includes the topics, labs, and homework that will be covered or assigned that week. Homework may be handed in or checked for completion. **No late homework will be accepted.**
- ✓ **Exit Cards** – At the end of each lesson, generally not after a lab, you will be given an Exit Card that consists of approximately 5 Regents questions that are based on the topic covered that day. These must be completed individually and submitted by the end of the period. They will be returned to you the following day.

Grade Breakdown

Your quarterly grade will be based on the following categories:

Tests	55%
Quizzes/Exit Cards	20%
Homework/Classwork	10%
Labs	15%

A cumulative quarterly exam will be given at the end of each quarter. In January, a midterm will be given which will count as 20% of the second quarter grade. **Your final grade will consist of 80% of the average of all quarterly grades and 20% of your regents exam grade.**

Late Assignment Policy

- ✓ Homework is NOT accepted late unless you are absent the day it was due, then it is due the following day.
- ✓ When an assignment is given in class, a due date is assigned. If the assignment is turned in after this due date, the assignment loses 10% per day. Assignments for a specific unit cannot be turned in once the unit test has been given.

What if I am absent?

- ✓ Part of the day:
 - I expect you to take responsibility for your school work and see me during a free period or before/after school to receive any work that you WILL miss that day. Your homework is still due the following day!
- ✓ Whole day:
 - If you know that you will be missing the following school day, I expect that you will see me for the work you will be missing. Your homework is due the day of your return.
 - If it is an unexpected absence, you will find all of the missed documents with your name on them in the "Absent Student" bin located in the front of the classroom. A "Missed Test" or "Missed Lab" appointment card will be in the bin if you missed a test, quiz, or lab.
- ✓ *Homework*: one makeup day for each day you were absent.
- ✓ *Test/Quiz/Lab*: must be made up within two days of the absence.

Remember all homework, classwork, notes, and review documents are posted on my website by the end of the school day that they are covered!

Topic Outline

1. Tools of Chemistry
2. Physical Behavior of Matter
3. The Atom
4. Nuclear Chemistry
5. The Periodic Table
6. Bonding
7. Stoichiometry
8. Solutions
9. Kinetics and Equilibrium
10. Electrochemistry
11. Acids and Bases
12. Organic Chemistry

“The most important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them.”

- William Lawrence Bragg

Please SIGN and DETACH this page. This must be handed in by Friday, September 5.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am more than happy to answer any questions and to work with you to facilitate learning in the classroom. My email address, classroom phone number, and course website information can be found on the first page of this syllabus.

Parents/Guardians: Please check the Parent Portal regularly. It will be updated at least once a week and will contain current grades and missing assignments. If you would like to receive class updates (e.g. upcoming test/quiz, homework, projects), please sign up for my Remind notifications. Instructions to register were sent home with the course welcome letter and can be found on my course website.

Students: Please visit my course website regularly. Here you will find the class documents and videos to further your understanding.

By signing below you are telling me that you clearly understand my classroom expectations and policies.

I look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

Miss Marybeth Valenti

Student Name (print): _____ **Period:** _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent Email Address: _____

In addition to this form, please read and sign the Safety Contract. Students will not be allowed to perform their required labs until this contract has been submitted!

New York State mandates that all students complete 1200 minutes of laboratory work before they can take the Regents Exam on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

ALL lab work is due by Friday, June 5, 2015.