

Dennis Jacobs
Grading Scheme for Alternative Course

The final letter grade will be based on a variety of quantitative measurements of your mastery of the material. Your course grade stems from a weighted average of your scores throughout the semester:

Homework, Quizzes, Group work in Recitation Section	15%
Test 1	10%
Test 2	10%
Test 3	10%
Test 4	10%
Final Exam	20%
Laboratory	25%

Each Tuesday of the semester, a homework set will be assigned. It is due in recitation section on the following Tuesday unless otherwise specified. No late homeworks will be accepted. Five black problems and five red problems will be assigned each week. (Answers to the red problems appear in the back of the textbook.) You will receive as many as two points for completing a black problem correctly and one point for completing a red problem.

After completing each chapter, you will need to take an on-line quiz that assesses whether you understood the basic concepts and principles introduced in the chapter. You may take the quiz anytime through the Friday it is due. Access to the quiz is gained from the course homepage on the World Wide Web.

Each week in recitation, you will work with a small group of classmates in solving one or two challenging chemistry problems. These problems are similar in difficulty to those that routinely appear on exams. You will be graded as a group both on the correctness of your solution and how well you work together in finding the solution.

The majority(60%) of your grade is derived from your performance on four midterm tests and a final exam. These tests are designed to not simply measure your knowledge of chemistry facts, but more importantly, to measure your understanding of chemistry concepts and to determine how able you are to solve problems by applying the principles of chemistry.

Expectations for Performance

The following table gives a general idea of the performance level that corresponds to a particular letter grade in the second semester course.

Letter Grade	Performance Characteristics
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a firm understanding of all chemistry concepts• Recognizes many relationships between principles developed in one chapter with those from other chapters within the book• Can solve most word problems, even if unrelated to ones that have been encountered before• Accurately predicts molecular structures, bonding configurations, and molecular properties• Understands complex equilibria and can calculate equilibrium concentrations for multicomponent systems
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a firm understanding of most chemistry concepts• Recognizes some relationships between principles developed in different chapters within the book• Can solve most word problems if they are similar to ones that have been encountered before and can solve some word problems that are unrelated to ones that have been encountered before• Can predict most molecular structures, bonding configurations, and molecular properties• Knows basic equilibria expressions
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a reasonable understanding of most chemistry concepts• Recognizes how principles developed within the same chapter of the book are related.• Can usually solve word problems, but only if they are closely related to those encountered before• Can determine most molecular structures and basic intramolecular interactions
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a limited understanding of only some chemistry concepts• Recognizes a few relationships between pairs of principles developed within a single chapter of the book• Can solve only the simplest of word problems• Consistently attends lecture, tutorial, and lab and makes legitimate attempts to complete quizzes and homework problems
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little or no understanding of chemical phenomena• Routinely misses lecture, tutorial, and/or homework assignments.

Honor Code

You have agreed to abide by Notre Dame's Academic Code of Honor as a precondition for admission to the University. Within the context of General Chemistry, this means that you pledge not to receive or give unauthorized aid on a test, quiz, lab report, or homework assignment. Although collaboration is encouraged in class and in recitation section, it is important to clarify that which is appropriate for group interaction on homework problems.

- Before you can seek assistance on a homework problem, you must spend at least 20 minutes working alone on that particular problem. It is important that you make a legitimate individual effort at finding a solution before you ask others for input. If after 20 minutes, you are unable to arrive at a solution, you may then seek help for that particular problem from a friend, study group, tutor, or teaching assistant. Guidance does not mean that someone shows you how to do a problem. Instead they should ask you directive questions or point you toward resources that will help you to discover your own solution.
- Under no conditions should you copy or even look at someone else's solution to a graded problem before you have submitted your own homework or exam for credit.
- During a test, quiz, or exam, it is forbidden to use preprogrammed formulas or plotting functions on your calculator; retrieval of information that you have previously stored in your calculator memory is a direct violation of the Honor Code.

Any suspected violation of the Honor Code will be turned over to the Departmental Honesty Committee for investigation. Penalties can be as severe as dismissal from the University.