

Syllabus for: CHEM010 – CRN# 60349 – SCC Summer 2026

Welcome to chemistry! This will be difficult and require a lot of time and effort but I'm here to help along the way. If you made it this far, you do belong here and I'm excited for the opportunity to be your professor and looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. Let's have a great semester!

1. Quick Info:

- Lecture – this is asynchronous (you do it on your own schedule) but class officially starts June 16th. I recommend starting as early as possible because summer classes move fast and summer chemistry classes move very very fast.
- Lab - meets in Vacaville room 1122 from 7:00 pm - 9:50 pm Monday and Wednesday starting Monday June 16th
- Student Help Hours (see <https://www.comstgermain.com/courses/>):
 - Vacaville:
 - Monday/Wednesday – 6:30-7:00 pm room 1122
 - Mon/Tue/Wed – 11:30 am-12:00 pm Live Q&A Sessions by Zoom (link in Canvas homepage)
 - Online using Discord (various times) and by Zoom by appointment (Discord link in our Canvas shell)
- Personal questions/issues: email me at commodore.st.germain@solano.edu or text/call at (707) 386-9588
- Class questions should be posted on the same Discord (Discord room link in our Canvas shell).
- I usually respond within a couple of hours. If I don't respond after 24 hours please contact me again as I just forgot.
- We will need the class materials on the first day of class (see below).
- This syllabus is only a guideline and adjustments may be made as needed throughout the semester.

2. How to Be Successful:

- Come to every class prepared and on time and actively participate in all activities.
- Watch the lectures and/or recordings twice.
- Complete all assignments and tasks on time (early is better).
- After completing the take-home quizzes, do them again without notes.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

As a result of successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of stoichiometry.
- Identify and name the course-required list of elements, ions, covalent compounds, ionic compounds, etc.
- Draw Lewis structures, identify the VSEPR geometry, and list the bond angles.
- Show proficiency in one or more lab techniques (titration, melting point apparatus, distilling, filtering, etc.).

Additional information can be found at <https://solano.elumenapp.com/public/> -> Chemistry -> Your Class.

4. How the class will be run:

In general, this standard grading scheme will be used to determine the final grade: 90.00-100% A; 80.00-89.99% B; 70.00-79.99% C; 60.00-69.99% D (not passing); 59.99 % or less F (not passing). I do not round and I do not give out free points because you are expected to earn your grade.

- Lecture is asynchronous (do on your own schedule). This doesn't mean you have to do it on your own. I encourage working with a friend or classmate. The lecture material is split up into four (4) sections each with it's own exam that you will take during lab time. Each of those sections will be split up into (3) smaller groups of related topics. Each of these topics will usually have two to four (2-4) video recordings. Each topic will have it's own set of accompanying questions that you can answer from information in the video recordings. I recommend watching the recordings first and then watch them again while taking notes, pausing/rewinding if necessary, and then answer the accompanying questions.

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- Lab will be about three (~3) hours each and include but are not limited to performing tasks listed in the lab procedures (given during lab), following safety guidelines, taking measurements, making observations, properly disposing of chemicals and materials, cleaning up your work stations before and after lab, and performing calculations, and submitting lab reports. Lab will be performed in groups.

Grading:

Grading Scheme	
Grading / Exams	Percent of Final Grade
Exams (4)	40%
Final	20%
Take-Home Quizzes (13)	14%
Lab Reports	10%
Lab Participation	10%
Daily Check-Ins	3%
Lecture Review Quizzes and Misc	3%

Exams:

There will be one (1) exam for each section so four (4) total exams for the course. These multiple choice exams will be taken during normal lab time unless you have arranged additional time through ASC. If special accommodations are needed, you may need to schedule taking the exam at the Fairfield campus. You are required to show all of your work and your work must be submitted at the end of the exam. Most of the exam questions are very similar to the accompanying questions and Take-Home Quizzes. You may be allowed some notes during the exam but this will be discussed in class. There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam AND you have a confirmed medical excuse, your missed exam grade can be determined by your next exam grade. This replacement policy applies only to missing one exam.

Final:

There will be a cumulative final that covers sections one through four (1-4) in the same format as the exams. The questions on the final may be similar to or even exactly like the exam questions as they are taken from the same pool of questions.

Take-Home Quizzes:

There will be a take-home quiz for each of the twelve (12) topics we are covering and each are worth 1% of your final grade. These will be turned in during lab time. There will also be a math review quiz that includes a math tutorial that will help students that do not have a strong math background and this is worth 2% of your final grade.

Lab Reports:

Students will complete lab reports by the end of the lab period and include but are not limited to observations, calculations, other exercises, etc. Students that fail to finish the reports by the end of lab are responsible for turning in the lab report by the next lab period.

Lab Participation:

Students are required to come to lab on-time with their personal protective equipment. All lab periods are mandatory unless changed by the instructor and if you miss more than 2 labs, you can be dropped from the class or have your grade lowered. Every one (1) minute you arrive late or leave early you will be penalized one (1) point. Arriving 10 minutes past the lab start time or leaving 10 minutes before the class end time counts as being late. Two times being late counts as one absence.

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Daily Check-Ins:

These will be one-question daily quizzes that are taken through Canvas that will be mostly math, basic algebra, units, light chemistry topics, and conversions to keep you engaged with the material.

Lecture Review Quizzes and Miscellaneous Assignments:

As mentioned above, there will be two to four (2-4) video recordings for each topic. After each of these videos, there will be a one-question Canvas quiz that you can answer from watching the video recordings. They will almost always be a question from the accompanying questions provided for that topic. There will also be other small assignments that you will be asked to complete to help you with the class technology, campus resources, chemistry topics, communication with me, etc.

Video Secret Words:

As mentioned above, there will be two to four (2-4) video recordings for each topic. Each of these videos will have a “secret” word that I will say during the video. You will have to take a one-question Canvas quiz to earn extra credit for watching each of the videos.

5. Class Materials:

- Device(s) and connection that can access and/or upload documents to Canvas, Discord, and OpenStax.
- 5 x scantron forms – 882-E compatible
- Calculator – non phone
- Safety goggles
- Safety gloves (optional)
- Lab coat (optional)
- Text Book (online, free) – [Chemistry, Atoms First 2e, OpenStax, Flowers, Neth, Robinson, Theopold, Langley](#).

6. Who I am:

My name is Commodore St. Germain (he/him). I did the bay area community college circuit as a student (NVC, SCC, DVC, Chabot, Merritt), earned my BS biochemistry/BA chemistry from SFSU 2014, and my PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from UC Davis in 2020. I’ve been teaching since 2019 (chemistry, biology, and biotechnology). I spend a lot of my time: with my family/friends/dogs, exercising, watching true crime shows/anime, and talking (dreaming) about food. See more at <https://www.comstgermain.com>.

7. Course Description:

HOURS: 48-54 lecture, 48-54 lab. COURSE DESCRIPTION: An emphasis on the chemistry of inorganic compounds and covers selected topics such as atomic theory, bonding, equations, gas laws, solutions, acid-base theory, and oxidation-reduction. The course is intended as preparation for pathways in chemistry, allied health, and general education. NOTE: Field trip may be required. Online homework may be required. NOTE: Not open for credit to students who have completed CHEM 001. Resources:

8. Resources:

- If you are having problems, please email me or come to my office hours as soon as possible.
- Admissions and Records important dates: <https://solano.edu/admissions/index.php>
- Distance Education Resources: <https://solano.edu/administrative-offices/canvas/student-resources.php>
- Canvas Help Desk: Click on the "Help?" question mark in the lower left corner of your Canvas screen for current help desk hours, phone numbers, and Canvas tutorials. (Links to an external site: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>) is a great resource for how-to information and tutorials.
- Student Resources: <https://solano.edu/administrative-offices/canvas/student-resources.php>

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- Library: <https://libguides.solano.edu/home>
- Financial Aid: <https://solano.edu/financial-aid/index.php>
- Discrimination and Sexual Harassment: <https://solano.edu/administrative-offices/student-services/student-grievances.php>
- Tutoring: If you want tutoring and/or suspect you will need tutoring contact Solano College Academic Success and Tutoring Center as soon as possible - https://solano.edu/centers/astc_/index.php. Sign up here: <https://solano.instructure.com/enroll/EKEA7Y>
- If you have a disability or think you have a disability please contact Solano College Accessibility Services Program as soon as possible so they can help you acquire resources - <https://solano.edu/centers/accessibility-services-center/index.php>
- MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) – a program to help students succeed in STEM - <https://solano.edu/student-success/mesa-program.php>

9. Plagiarism/Cheating:

From the SCC Student Handbook:

"An instructor who determines that a student has cheated or plagiarized has the right to give a failing (i.e. "F") grade, or numerical equivalent, for the assignment or examination. Instances of alleged plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty may be referred to the Chief Student Services Officer for action in accordance with the established disciplinary procedures as set forth in Solano Community College Board Policy, §5300. Following procedures consonant with due process, a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a lesser sanction if he or she is found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. The totality of the particular circumstances, the student involved, and any relevant mitigating factors shall be considered in every case."

10. Attendance and Participation:

From the SCC Student Handbook:

"Students must attend the first meeting of their classes to assure verification of their enrollments. Students failing to appear may be dropped from class rolls [Board Policy 5020]. Regular attendance and participation is required of all students enrolled in courses and laboratories at Solano College. This includes regular attendance, completion of examinations, assignments, participation in class activities and discussions. Instructors shall provide students with written statements describing course requirements, grading standards and course prerequisites. Regular attendance is an obligation assumed by every student at the time of registration. Absences per semester should not exceed the number of hours or the number of days that a class meets per week. Absences in excess of the maximum may result in students being dropped from classes or having their grades lowered."

All lab periods are mandatory unless your instructor tells you otherwise. You are allowed to miss two labs but you will not receive points for the labs you missed. Every missed lab after that, your total and final class grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

11. Sick Policy:

If you are sick, stay home! Let me know as soon as possible and we will find you alternative assignments for the time that you are sick. Health and Wellness Center - <https://solano.edu/centers/health-and-wellness-index.php>.

12. Workload:

Be prepared for about 12 hours of work per week in this course to pass. Additional effort may be needed to get higher than average grades. A three unit "lecture" course, by virtue of what is known as the Carnegie Unit, mathematically establishes a standard the amount of work expected from a student (and the instructor) in a 18-week course. California state law upholds this, see California Code of Regulations, Education Code, Title 5, Section 55002.5.

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13. Schedule:

This is the tentative schedule and may (probably will) change. The most up-to-date schedule will be on Canvas:

Day/Date	Wk	Lecture (asynchronous), Suggested Schedule	Lab (Mon/Wed 7:00 pm - 9:50 pm, VV 1122), 16 meetings [CRN#]
Mon, Jun 15, 2026	1	Atomic Structure and Significant Figures	order of operations, safety, <u>Exp 1: Density and Miscibility</u>
Tue, Jun 16, 2026	1	Atomic Structure and Significant Figures	
Wed, Jun 17, 2026	1	Ions and Periodic Properties	What are variables? <u>Exp 2: Density of Liquids and Solids</u>
Thu, Jun 18, 2026	1	Ions and Periodic Properties	
Mon, Jun 22, 2026	2	Lewis Structures, Bonding, and Molecules	Solving for Variables, <u>Exp 3: Flame Test</u>
Tue, Jun 23, 2026	2	Lewis Structures, Bonding, and Molecules	
Wed, Jun 24, 2026	2		Exam 01
Thu, Jun 25, 2026	2	Molecular Shapes and Polarity	
Mon, Jun 29, 2026	3	Molecular Shapes and Polarity	Exponents and Scientific Notation, <u>Lab: Molecular Shapes</u>
Tue, Jun 30, 2026	3	Polyatomic Ions and Nomenclature	
Wed, Jul 1, 2026	3	Polyatomic Ions and Nomenclature	Simplifying Expressions with Exponents, <u>Lab: Nomenclature</u>
Thu, Jul 2, 2026	3	Scientific Notation, Units and Conversions and Measurements	
Mon, Jul 6, 2026	4	Scientific Notation, Units and Conversions and Measurements	Understanding Units and Conversions, <u>Exp 5: Chemical Reactions</u>
Tue, Jul 7, 2026	4	States of Matter and Intermolecular Forces	
Wed, Jul 8, 2026	4		Exam 02
Thu, Jul 9, 2026	4	States of Matter and Intermolecular Forces	
Mon, Jul 13, 2026	5	Solutions	<u>Exp 10: Solutions</u>
Tue, Jul 14, 2026	5	Solutions	
Wed, Jul 15, 2026	5	Chemical Equations and Chemical Reactions	<u>Exp 7: Double Replacement Reactions</u>

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Thu, Jul 16, 2026	5	Chemical Equations and Chemical Reactions	
Mon, Jul 20, 2026	6		Exam 03
Tue, Jul 21, 2026	6	Stoichiometry	
Wed, Jul 22, 2026	6	Stoichiometry	<u>Exp 4: Empirical Formula</u>
Thu, Jul 23, 2026	6	Stoichiometry	
Mon, Jul 27, 2026	7	Gas Laws	Conversions, Chem Equations, Stoichiometry
Tue, Jul 28, 2026	7	Gas Laws	-
Wed, Jul 29, 2026	7	Acids and Bases	<u>Lab: Gases</u>
Thu, Jul 30, 2026	7	Acids and Bases	
Mon, Aug 3, 2026	8	Review	Exam 04
Tue, Aug 4, 2026	8	Review	
Wed, Aug 5, 2026	8	Review	Final