



# CHEM 12600 1, PHSC 12200 1 - The Chemistry of Food and Cooking - Instructor(s) - Shaunna McLeod

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **58**

Number of Responses: **24**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
The chemistry principles, theories, etc. that are related to the everyday food
I learned about proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and sugars, which helped me to understand the basic building blocks of all foods. We learned about the molecular processes that give foods their taste and texture as well as other unique qualities.
How to read scientific articles and how to do molecular analysis.
amino acids, functional groups, other food chemistry
I think learning about the different intermolecular forces, and how to identify them in chemical molecules was the most important thing that I learned in this course.
Basic chemistry concepts as applied to elements of cooking, baking, and other food items. Also an emphasis on interpreting scientific literature, and critically evaluating nutrition and food product claims.
I learned the chemical reactions of different cooking methods and alcohol.
Chemical pathways and reactions that impact cooking, baking, and flavor!
I learned the fundamental molecules that make up foods and some of the reactions that go into making foods.
I was able to revise all the fundamental chemistry concepts I learned from high school.
I learned the chemistry behind cooking, baking, and fermenting alcohol.
Lots of in-depth food chemistry
I learned about stoichiometry, flavor molecules, and the chemical structure of fats, carbohydrates, proteins, and water.
chemistry behind cooking, baking, beverages, taste chem, and also fundamental chemistry concepts
I reviewed a lot of chemistry concepts I learned in high school (molarity, concentrations, ideal gas laws), but applied to food
Chemical understanding of food products, how to productively read and understand food marketing and labeling
Lots of cool chemistry knowledge—prof. McLeod is great
I learned the science behind cooking such as the Maillard reaction, caramelization, etc. and how it affects the way food is labeled and thought of.

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The labs are fun, and lectures and office hours are helpful
The labs were incredibly helpful as they applied to whatever we would be learning the following week, and the professor's office hours were also helpful.
The lectures were very useful, assignments prepared you well for the tests, and labs were fun and connected well to lecture topics.
lecture and labs were important to the understanding
The homework assignments were really helpful in introducing topics, which would then be reiterated during the class lectures. Labs were very interesting and engaging, and helped build off of the main topics of the course.
The lectures were comprehensive, covering all the content needed to succeed. The labs and discussion sections were interesting, and related to the lectures. Some of the readings felt a little superfluous, but generally helpful.
Lectures were key for information with following up in office hours also being helpful. Assignments built on concepts.
The lectures were the biggest contributors to my learning, however I found the labs to generally be interesting (although somewhat frivolous).
The labs were very fun to do.
I enjoyed the reading questions and how they often incorporated short video clips on the topic
Good recordings of the lectures are always available online, but I think going to class helped because the lectures/content aren't super inaccessible to understand and asking questions is pretty low pressure! Assignments sometimes give practice calculations, but the final is mostly basic concepts/vocab.
lectures and reading quiz complemented each other well and was very informative. the labs are fun and demonstrative of chemical concepts
The reading questions felt excessive and not necessary. The lectures were engaging because of PollEv, but I feel like I did a lot of extra (mostly busy) work that didn't really contribute to my learning. I would have liked either an exam or a project, but not both
Labs were long but mostly useful. Class lectures were not always necessary.
Lectures were great at giving us an understanding of the material. Labs helped to apply what we've discussed and psets were good practice.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.95	4.00	0.00%	4.55%	18.18%	54.55%	22.73%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	52.17%	39.13%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	4.35%	8.70%	60.87%	26.09%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.05	4.00	4.55%	9.09%	0.00%	50.00%	36.36%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	4.76%	9.52%	52.38%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	4.55%	50.00%	36.36%
I felt respected in this class.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	36.36%	59.09%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.23	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	40.91%	40.91%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
n/a
Great course overall, challenging but not too difficult to succeed.
i learned quite a lot from this course but there was a LOT of busywork and assignments for this class. the fact that we had a test week 8 and a final paper due during finals week was not ideal. lab reports also took quite a long time to do. it was a lot of work for a core class but it wasn't too difficult.
I haven't taken chemistry since high school, and this course was definitely manageable. The homework sets were a bit difficult but office hours were super helpful!
Please make labs more engaging and interesting.
The grading was very nitty gritty and would often get points off for tiny details that were not the main focus of the question, which was annoying
I recommend taking the course to fulfill your Core.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	4.17%	95.83%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
the well-organized slides
The professor's office hours contributed most to my learning, as well as her selection of outside readings and the Poll Everyone questions that we did in class.
The lectures and office hours! Professor McLeod was very attentive to all questions.
lecture
The PollEv's that were used in class definitely helped with my learning, as it made me apply the concepts from the lecture to answer the questions posed.
The lectures were very helpful, and I really appreciated that they were recorded—it felt very accessible.
McLeod goes over class material well in lecturing and is really understanding.
The lectures were the most important for learning.
The professor was always well prepared and would answer all the questions in class with great examples
This professor is amazing, really cares about her students and the material
Lectures, labs
lectures contributed the most, it is easy to follow and very informative. Prof mcleod is also open to answer lots of questions
lectures
Although this is a lecture class in which I had never interacted with the professor, when I approached her after class with a question, she addressed me by name when she responded. I was struck by this because it really shows how committed Professor McLeod is to helping her students learn. It made the class feel more personal, even as a lecture class (and made it more guilt-inducing to skip class or pay less attention).
Her recording of lectures was an added benefit for review. I also love the questions for Polls during class.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Offering answers for the poll—everywhere questions on the slides
The professor could have provided just a little more guidance on the final project as to what she required for the assignment.
N/a
The lectures at times got a bit dry, so making them a bit more engaging would definitely help me learn more, but other than that, nothing much.
Maybe spend more time elaborating on lecture slides rather than rushing through them! We covered a lot of content each time and it would've been more beneficial to spend more time on each slide.
Nothing.
I felt that there was a lot of content. Having to do multiple readings per week along with a lab and a homework assignment got to be a bit much at times and I felt like I wasn't able to take in all the information I was being given.
Not in particular
Honestly, there was way too much work for this course. Considering there are already 3 days of class and a lab, I was spending way more time on this class than classes for my major, etc. There should either be less assignments/week or the assignments should be significantly shorter. I also think there should either be a final exam OR a final paper – having both at around the same time was really stressful with finals.
N/A
less assignments
I would enjoy more practice examples for exams.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.73%	77.27%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	36.36%	59.09%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	31.82%	40.91%	9.09%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.32	4.00	0.00%	4.55%	4.55%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	36.36%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.76%	38.10%	47.62%	9.52%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	50.00%	36.36%	4.55%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	40.91%	54.55%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.41	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	50.00%	45.45%	0.00%

**Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.**

Comments
Abby and Alex. They are helpful in labs and office hours
Abby Bracken was my TA, and she was incredibly helpful in lab. She was patient and knew how to explain answers in a way that made sense to my partner and me. I don't think there's anything she could have done better.
Alex Krupinski
Alex
Alex. She was a very good TA for my lab section, and was very helpful if I had any question in regards to the process of the lab/lab sheet.
Abby Bracken
Abby
Alex. She's great, and helpful during office hours.
Abby Bracken
abby bracken was super helpful and kind
Abby Bracken and Alex Krupinski
Abby – she was really great and helpful
Abby and Alex were direct and helped answer questions. Office hours helped with problems, except sometimes youre trying to fight for time with the TA because theyre helping other people which is understandable.
Alex Krupinski
Alexandra Krupinski is my TA this quarter. She is very supportive and helpful during lab and also during office hours.
Alex and Abby
Alex Krupinski and Abby Bracken are both awesome!
Abby Bracken is great at explaining the material and making sure you follow through in lab.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	33.33%	55.56%	5.56%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.72	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	16.67%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.39	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	38.89%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.89%	61.11%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	33.33%	50.00%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	38.89%	55.56%	0.00%

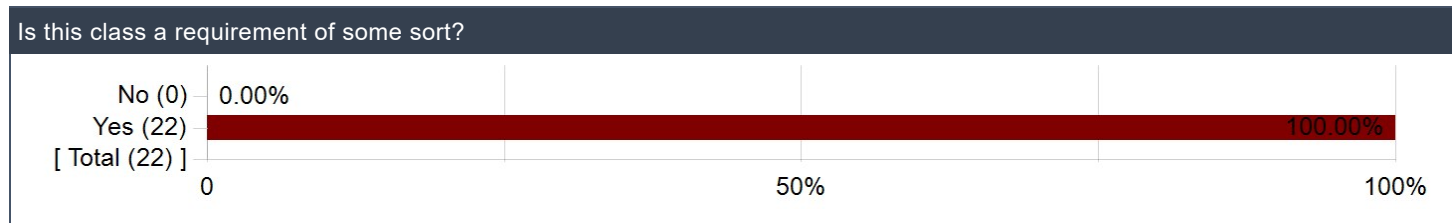
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	3.67	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	22.22%	38.89%	22.22%	0.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	4.14	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	53.33%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

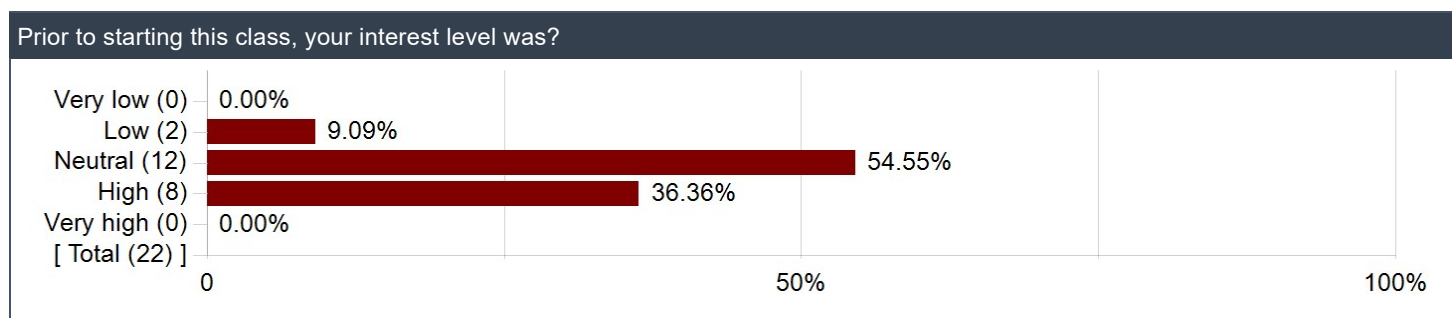
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
n/a

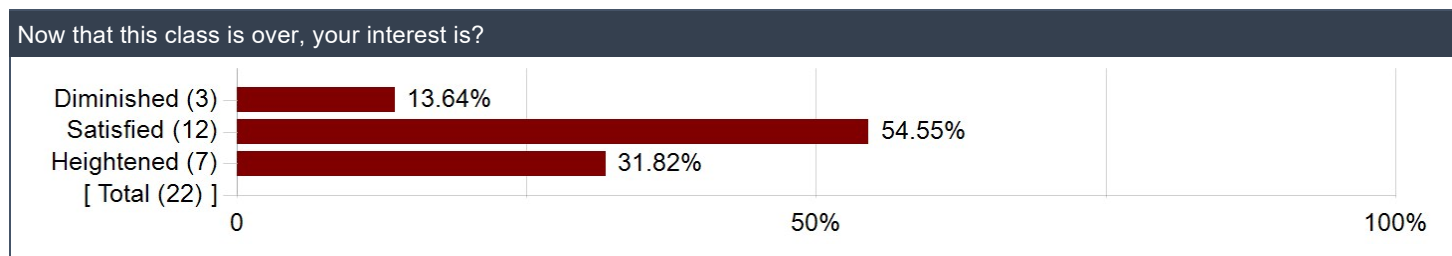
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



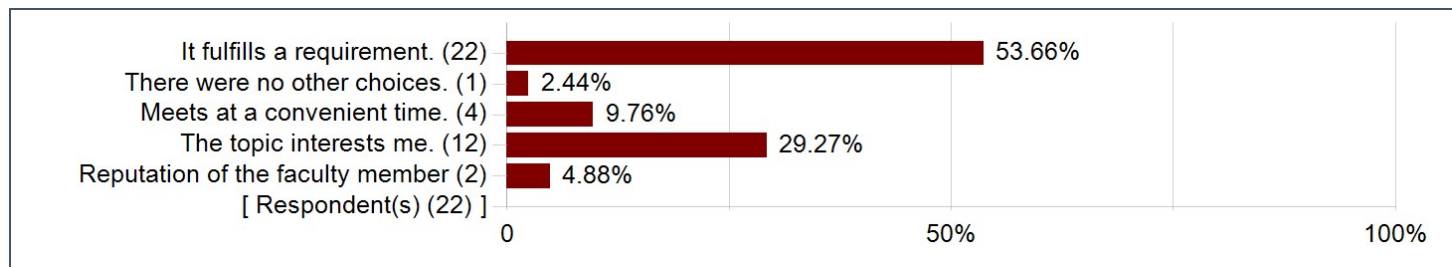
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



## Now that this class is over, your interest is?

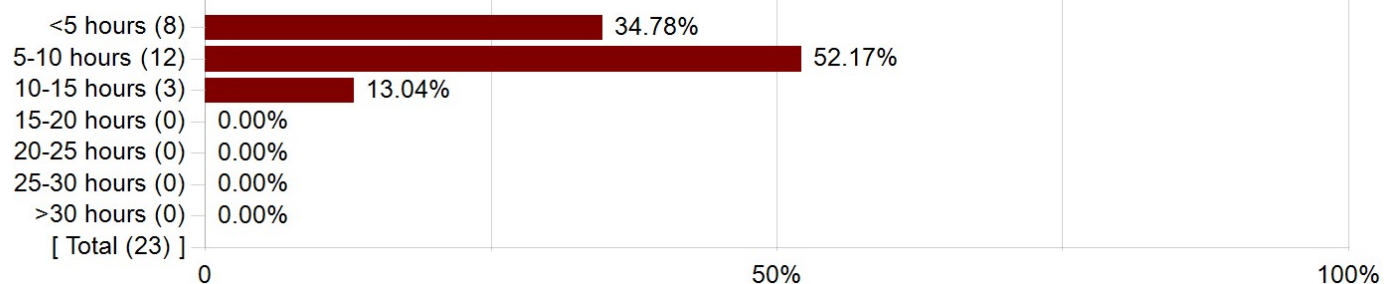


## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



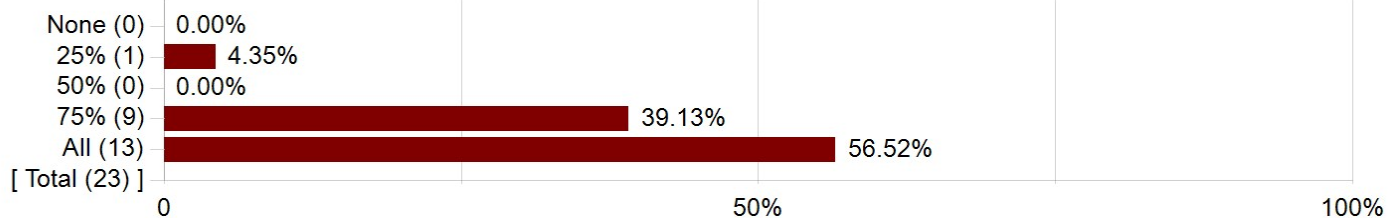
## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?





**Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.**

Comments
Designed for non-STEM background, relatively ok
I took AP Chem in high school, and I found this course aligned well with that (even though I hadn't taken the class in awhile). I may have been better prepared having taken intro chem, but overall not an unreasonable level of difficulty.
I took AP Chemistry senior year of high school and felt very prepared for this course as a first year. Prof. McLeod recaps concepts that are important really well (IMFs, molecular analysis).
About equal, maybe a bit more difficult.
i took gen chem 1. might be a bit overwhelming for someone with zero chem experience at first but i think it's manageable.
This was approachable, given my previous limited high school chemistry experience, and also having taken Chemistry of Artists' Materials beforehand.
I took Comprehensive General Chemistry here and AP General Chemistry. The organic concepts were highly simplified but I still had questions that required office hours.
Easy
All of the chemistry content is introduced from the ground up, however I think it would be difficult to get much out of the class without at least some chemistry background knowledge.
Not very difficult
easier than AP chem
It is an organic chemistry class and there is a lot of content, but the class was not too difficult (I have not touched chemistry since sophomore year in high school).
It's definitely manageable for non STEM people but still challenging
Honestly not that bad at all, especially as a humanities major!! The final was easy! Most people taking the class had little chem background, so any chem concepts even basic ones were explained, and you can always go to office hours/ask questions during lecture for help :)
this course should be good for all backgrounds in chem
not difficult for me, but my high school was good at chem so i already knew most concepts
This course is not at all challenging if you are familiar with chemistry concepts.