

CHEMISTRY 142 LABORATORY

SYLLABUS

Spring 2009

The information contained on pages 1 – 9 of the Chemistry 141-142 Laboratory Manual, 19th edition, 2008-2009, should be considered part of the syllabus for Chemistry 142 lab. It is your responsibility to know and follow the syllabus.

1. LearnLink. You are expected to read the “Chem 141-142 Parker” LearnLink conference (under “Oxford Chemistry”) regularly. Announcements, changes in the lab schedule, etc., will be posted here.
2. Lab Schedule. Be sure you know which experiment you are doing in lab each week. The schedule doesn’t go in numerical order of the experiment numbers. In addition, the schedule may be changed if necessary to keep the lecture and lab aligned. Changes in the schedule will be posted on the LearnLink class conference. If you prepare for the wrong experiment, you will be lost in lab and will do poorly on the prelab quiz; this will also affect your lab evaluation.
3. Prelab Meeting. This will precede each experiment. It will begin promptly at the beginning of the lab period, in the classroom listed on the class schedule. *It is important that you be on time for this.* If you miss the prelab meeting (or a substantial portion of it), you will not be allowed to work in lab that week and will be given a zero for the experiment.
4. Prelab Quiz. At the beginning of the prelab meeting each week, you will take a short prelab quiz (5 minutes or so). This will count 10 points towards your grade on that experiment, and is designed to see if you’ve read the experiment and understand what you will be doing in lab. If you come in late, you will not be given extra time to take the quiz; if you come in after the quiz is over, you will receive a zero for it.
5. Proper behavior in lab. You are not allowed to use cell phones or pagers in lab or the prelab meeting. Should you bring one and it goes off, or should you use it in any way, you will leave and receive a zero for that experiment. In the lab itself, all books, book bags, coats, etc., should be left in the shelves at the back so nobody trips over them and nothing gets spilled on them. You should remain in the lab until your experiment is finished.
6. Safety. The laboratory can be a safe place if you follow the safety rules. If you violate the safety rules, your lab evaluation may be lowered, or you may not be allowed to work in the lab.

If you did not take Chemistry 141 or 100 at Oxford, you must make arrangements to see the safety video before the second lab meeting.

The two safety rules most strictly enforced:

- (1) You must wear your safety glasses at all times in the lab. If you do not bring them with you, you will have to leave lab and get your glasses.
- (2) You must wear closed-toe shoes in the lab. If you come to lab with open-toe shoes, you will have to leave lab and put on proper shoes before returning.

7. Postlab Quiz. Each week you will take a postlab quiz, either in the prelab meeting or during the lab at the front of the room. The quiz will be short (5 minutes or so) and will be based on the experiment you did the previous week and the graded report that was just returned. It would be a good idea to look back over that graded report before taking the quiz. This quiz will be worth 10 points. The average of all the postlab quiz grades will constitute an additional lab grade.

8. Lab reports. Lab reports for Monday lab are due Wednesday by 4:30.

Your reports must be left in the appropriate drawer outside Pierce 218. (Slide it in through the hole in the front.)

Your graded lab report will be returned at your next prelab meeting and discussed.

9. Formal reports. You will write two formal reports, for Experiments 13 and 17 (see the lab schedule). Your grade on a formal report will be based on two components – style and content/organization. Style includes correct scientific writing style as well as correct grammar and spelling. (Failure to follow the style guidelines in the lab manual will result in a failing grade for the report.) Content includes completeness and correctness of the information; organization includes placing the information in the correct places. The formal report will not be graded on data or results. It must be double-spaced, with 12-point type size and at least 1-inch margins, and printed in black ink; if more than one page, the pages must be stapled. Electronic submission is not acceptable. Make sure your name is on it.

Your first report will be returned with a grade and comments. You will revise it and turn it in, along with THE ORIGINAL VERSION; the revision will then be graded. For the second formal report, you will turn in just one version of the paper to be graded instead of doing a revision.

Note: you must still turn in the report sheets for these experiments at the appropriate due date and time listed under item 6, above.

Since that the formal reports are due at the next lab meeting and thus later than the report sheets are due, make a copy of any information on the report sheets that you may want to include in your formal reports.

10. Lateness. Lab reports and formal reports turned in late will lose 5 points per day late. Turning in a formal report after the prelab lecture begins counts as a day late; turning in a lab report after 4:30 on the due date counts as a day late. If you turn in assignments late more than twice, you will see the penalty escalate.

11. Grading. Each report is graded on a 100-point basis. You will receive up to 10 points for your prelab quiz; up to 20 points for performing the experiment and turning in the carbon copy and the lab report; and up to 70 points on the report itself (including data, calculations, results, and answers to questions). If a report is turned in so late that the other reports on that experiment have been graded and returned, the maximum grade will be 30. If you turn in incomplete reports more than once, they may be given grades as low as 20.

12. Evaluation. As your lab instructor, I will evaluate you on your performance and conduct in lab. This evaluation will count as an additional grade; it will be based on such items as being on time, being prepared, following the safety rules, working independently and efficiently, finishing on time, and leaving the lab clean.

13. Lab grade. You will have 5 grades in lab beyond those for the lab reports on the experiments you performed: the first and revised versions of the first formal report, the second formal report, your postlab quiz average, and your evaluation. Your lab grade will be the average of these grades. See your course syllabus for how the lab grade is used in determining your course grade.

14. Missed lab. Since each instructor has the same students in lab as in lecture, it is important that you work in my lab. Further, since the labs are normally full, it is important that you work in the lab for which you are enrolled. The only acceptable reasons for missing a lab are illness/emergency or a college-related activity (such as a field trip or a trip where you are representing the school). If you miss a lab for any other reason, you will receive a zero. If you do not follow the procedure below, you will receive a zero even if your reason is acceptable.

- (a) In the case of an illness or emergency, you must notify me by the date and time of the lab and give the reason for your absence. If the reason is acceptable, that lab will not count for you. Only one lab can be missed without a grade penalty; any subsequent missed labs will be given grades of zero.
- (b) If you know you are going to need to miss lab for a college-related activity, you must talk to me at least a week before the lab and make appropriate arrangements. If such arrangements cannot be made, you must perform the experiment on your regular day. Only one lab can be made up this way; any subsequent missed labs will be given grades of zero.

Leaving early for vacation, a doctor's appointment (unless due to an emergency), meetings, etc. are NEVER acceptable excuses for missing a lab; neither is something scheduled for another class. The laboratory is part of the scheduled class and should be treated as such.

15. Honor Code. You are responsible for knowing how the Oxford College Honor Code applies to Chemistry 142 lab. Basically, a lab report, a formal report, and a quiz must be your work and your work alone; you may not give or receive assistance. See the Honor Code Pledge handout you signed for more information. Make sure you understand the provisions of the Honor Code as well as the information regarding the Honor Code on the pledge. If you have any doubt as to how the Honor Code applies to any assignment, ask your instructor.

16. Final comments on lab grades.

(a) Coming to lab unprepared – without your lab manual, lab notebook, safety glasses, and closed-toe shoes – sends the message that you do not take lab seriously, especially if this happens more than once. This will affect your lab evaluation.

(b) If you frequently take longer than everybody else to finish the experiment, you should examine the way you are preparing for lab and how you are working in the lab, as this will affect your lab evaluation.

(c) Make sure you know when your lab reports and formal reports are due.

17. Have FUN in lab!