

"Non scholae sed vitae discimus"

CHEM-L101 F-14

Instructor: Sandor Kadar, Ph. D.

Office hours: Thursday 1:00PM-2:30PM

1. Goals/Objectives of the lab (i.e. Why are we here and doing what we are doing every week?):

- "...tear the mask off nature and stare at the face of God" (Sheldon, Big Bang Theory), that is have a chance to make to come alive the mysterious concepts that your professor fills the board with in class and swears that they are important
- Develop some fundamental lab skills that helps you understand the importance of Chemistry in today's society and to become a responsible, well-informed citizen
- Develop an understanding of the importance, and appreciation for lab work beyond that Chemistry often stinks
- Repair the damage that your high school Chemistry teacher might have done and made you hate Chemistry. Try to start with a *tabula rasa* (clean slate) and give Chemistry another chance
- Develop an idea why we do scientific research and get your feet wet with the Scientific Method
- And most of all: HAVE FUN!

2. How can I help?

- I am on campus on Thursdays and upon request.
- Feel free to contact me via email, text, or call me. I have a long commute to and from home, therefore emails may not be answered immediately. If you text me, please identify yourself and depending on the nature of your problem, I may call you, text you back, or email you. Please understand that while I am driving, I have limited options (although Siri seems to do miracle)
- I will stay after lab in case you need help with the lab.



3. The DOs and DONTs

- Labs are mandatory and not optional. While the instructor handles each case individually, in general only valid excuses will be considered (e.g. serious illness). Lamé excuses will be laughed at (e.g. your second uncle died - the fifth times, or you were abducted by aliens). In general, if you know you would miss a lab, please let me know ASAP.
- Safety rules (not detailed here) are chiseled into stone! No wiggling room, no excuse.
- Cell phones are to be turned off! I understand that you are inseparable from your phone, and I understand there are situations when you do have to answer your phone or shoot out a text. In those cases, please just let me know and step outside to do whatever you have to do.
- Generally, you don't have ask me to leave the lab for a brief period (bathroom, have a bite, etc.), however, please let me know if you leave and when you return. I need to know any time who is in the lab in case there is an emergency. This is not a license to skip half of the lab, please be considerate. Try to plan it so that your teamwork is not interrupted, and you need to catchup when you return.
- Please DO observe the "Honor Code". I will not "police" the lab, however, I will follow the University guidelines regarding this matter. When you are in doubt as to what is considered allowed or appropriate (e.g. if you want to use a resource), ask me, and if I am not sure, I will help you to figure it out (sometimes it is not simple to figure out the permissions regarding an artifact).

4. Your weekly chores

- Prepare for the weekly labs from the handout
- Complete the weekly Lab Report and bring it to the next lab. The reports are short and you'll have one week, so late submission is not allowed. Each week that the report is late will carry 15% penalty on the grade (I can get the report only on Thursdays)
- Complete the online quizzes by the due date

5. Grading

- Reports carry 50% of your final grade
- Occasionally there will be a quiz to be completed before the lab. The quiz grade represents 30% of your grade will at my discretion based on your lab work, lab activity, general conduct in the lab (including observing safety regulations)

- Please keep in mind: I have to grade you on the work you complete, not on your negotiating skills. I am more than happy to help you any which way I can to improve your work and lab skills.

6. Deadlines

- Take-home quizzes are due 8:00am on the day of the lab.
- The complete Lab Reports are due by the next lab.
- Please plan ahead. Technology is a blessing most of the time, but can be a curse as well. Do not leave your work to the last minute and be aware if you are planning to be in an environment where there is no internet access. To be fair with the rest of the class any technology related excuses will be accepted only if there is a University level problem

7. Students with disabilities

- If you believe you have a disability or disabilities that may have an impact on your performance in the lab, please obtain a doctor's note.
- In the meanwhile, I encourage you to let me know, so I am aware of it and accommodate you accordingly.
- Please follow the applicable procedures to make your disability status official with the College, as I need the official notice for my records.

