

Windsor Central High School

2014 – 2015 Regents Chemistry with Lab Requirement

Instructor: Mr. Bray (rbray@windsor-csd.org)	Classroom: 114
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On-line Access: via School's webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Google Drive, Remind, Schoology	

Textbook:

Chemistry: New York Edition – Wilbraham, et al. (Prentice Hall)

A class set of textbooks will be available to all students, and each student has the opportunity to sign out individual textbooks for extended periods of time. Students are responsible for the proper care of textbooks from the time the book is signed out until the book is returned. Each unit has a workbook associated with it, and each student is expected to come to class with the appropriate workbook every day.

Course Overview:

This is a full year course, with a final New York State Regents examination in June. All students enrolled in chemistry are expected to take the Regents exam in June; the Regents exam is the final exam for this course. As per Windsor Central School Board policy, the final exam (NYS Regents) counts as twenty percent (20%) of the course average. Course topics range from the scientific method and measurement to nuclear and organic chemistry. Class meets once a day for forty (40) minutes, and lab meets every other day for forty (40) minutes either before or after the regular class. Homework is assigned for class up to 4 nights a week, and can take up to 2 hours a night to complete. As with any Regents course there is a lab requirement for this course that states students must participate in 1200 minutes of lab time, which the Science department has decided is equal to 20 lab procedures. Students must also “successfully complete” at least 20 lab reports in order to meet the NYS lab requirement to take the Regents exam in June. Successfully completing a lab report is defined as achieving a score of 65% or better on the write up associated with a particular lab.

Classroom Expectations:

First and foremost our classroom and learning environment must be comfortable, and conducive to learning. In order for this to happen, students must exhibit mutual respect towards each other. Any behavior not concurrent with this policy will not be tolerated.

You also need to come to class prepared *everyday*. This means that you need to be to class on time with your Chemistry notebook, any assignments due that day, and something to write with (pen or pencil). Generally, once class has started you will not be able to go to your locker. Not coming to class prepared could result in a student having to come in outside of class hours to take any missed notes.

Students are not permitted to leave the classroom once the bell has sounded to begin class. Consequently, it is suggested that all students use the lavatory in between classes, or during lunch.

Copying and/or cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated. If it is discovered that you are copying and/or cheating on any given assignment, you will receive a zero (0) for that assignment and not be given the opportunity to make up the assignment.

Attendance and Tardiness:

The policies of Windsor Central School District will be observed and followed. If you are absent from class for any reason, that absence will be counted against the maximum allowed absences in this class. If you are tardy to class you must come with a pass from where you are coming from; verbal passes **are not** sufficient. If you are more than twenty (20) minutes late to class, you will be marked as “absent” for that particular class.

Students are expected to report to class on time. Habitual tardiness will affect your grade in this course; simply put if you’re not in class you’re missing important material.

If you are absent from class, you will have exactly the same number of days you missed to make up any assignments. For example if you miss class on Tuesday and there is an assignment due Wednesday, you will have until Thursday (1 day) to turn in the assignment. If you miss a laboratory activity, you must schedule a time with me as soon as possible to make up that lab. Missed lab activities **can not** be made up outside of school; you must physically perform the lab in order for it to count towards the State mandate. If a lab is not made up within a reasonable amount of time, you may receive a grade of zero (0) for that lab report.

Grading:

The grade breakdown for this course is as follows:

- Exams = 30%
- Projects = 20%
- Quizzes = 20%
- Homework = 10%
- Labs = 20%

Exams are given at the conclusion of each unit. There are not an equal amount of exams from one marking period to another, so students are encouraged to perform well on exams. All exams are constructed using questions from previous Regents exams; therefore all exams reflect the rigor associated with the final Regents exam in June. There may be opportunities for “make-up exams” offered to students to earn back points they missed on the exam. These opportunities are not guaranteed, consequently students should prepare for each exam in an effort to score as high as possible.

Projects will be assigned throughout the year reflecting the material discussed in the current units. Some marking periods may have more projects assigned than others, so it is important to make every project count.

Quizzes will be given approximately twice a week throughout the year. A weekly review quiz will be given on Fridays, and a cumulative review quiz will be given on Wednesdays. Each quiz will usually consist of five (5) questions, each worth twenty (20) points. Each quiz is graded out of a possible 100%, and the lowest quiz grade is dropped for each marking period. If a student is absent on the day of a quiz, they have two (2) days upon their return to make up the quiz, otherwise it will be graded as a zero (0).

Homework will be reviewed in class as a group, however it is important to come to class with your homework completed for that day. If you do not come to class with your homework (whether you forgot it in your locker, at home, just plain didn't do it, etc.) you have the ability to turn it in to me by the next school day for no more than **half-credit**. Anything turned in after the next school day will be graded based on the instructor's discretion.

Labs are assigned throughout the year reflecting the material being discussed at that time. Labs are usually due on Fridays, and there are specific requirements posted in the classroom that must be met for each lab. Please note that make-up lab sessions will only be offered Wednesdays after school. Make-up lab schedules will be posted and updated as often as possible throughout the school year.

Students have the opportunity throughout the year to achieve "bonus points". The rough conversion between bonus points and grade points added is 10 bonus points equals a 1 point increase of the overall average. There will be a "cap" placed on bonus points that will change from marking period to marking period, established by the teacher.

Student Resources:

I utilize a great deal of technology in this course. I strongly suggest that all students take advantage of the resources provided for this course. I understand that not all students have access to high speed internet, iPods/mp3 players, or even computers at home. All students do have access to the various computer labs at WCHS (or even my office computer and/or iPad if necessary) during their study halls, lunch, or before/after school. If you have any questions regarding the technology used in this course feel free to email me.

School's Webpage – My page on the school's webpage acts as a portal to almost all online resources. You can access this page via: <http://www.windsor-csd.org/MrBRAY.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding the various online resources, please feel free to call or email me.

Facebook and Twitter – You can follow this course on both Facebook and/or Twitter. I will regularly posts course information an assignment due dates via updates. You can follow the course on Facebook by becoming a fan of "Windsor Chemistry", and you can follow the course on Twitter via "@WindsorChem". Parents and students are equally encouraged to utilize this resource. The feeds for Facebook and Twitter are mirrors of each other, meaning you do not need to sign up for both, as they are identical. If you do not have a twitter account, you can have the tweets sent as a txt message to your cell phone by sending a txt to the number 40404. In the body of the txt write "follow

WindsorChem”. You will begin receiving the course tweets to your phone, messaging and data rates may apply. You can turn this feature off at any time by txting “STOP” to the number 40404 twice in succession.

Schoology – This is a relatively new addition to my “digital family”, it offers a service very similar to Facebook, however, it is strictly educationally based. As the instructor, I have the ability to assign homework problems, quiz questions, and other interesting activities with the on-line course. Currently, Schoology is in a “trial run” for me, so I may or may not utilize it over the course of the year. If you are interested in joining the Schoology page please send me an email and I will forward you directions.

Remind – This is a very interesting service that I am also test running this year. Remind allows me to send notifications to group members as txt messages. It is a free service, although messaging and data rates may apply. If you would like to sign up to receive txts via Remind, txt the message “@0e5ad” to the number (347) 573-9305. You will get a txt back asking for your full name, please use the name you prefer to go by. Next, you will get a txt asking for your birthdate (not in my control, it is to insure users are at least 13 years old). Once you have replied, you’re all set. You can also sign up using the Remind app, which you can download for free from the App Store for iOS devices or GooglePlay for Android devices.

YouTube Channel – I have set up a YouTube channel for the course where weekly review videos are posted, as well as unit exam tutorials. You can find this channel at www.youtube.com/WindsorChemistry. Each Friday (if time allows) I produce a weekly review video that will air as a Hangout on Air via Google+. Students can either watch the live broadcast by following the link tweeted just before the broadcast starts, or they can watch the recorded video on the YouTube channel once the live broadcast has concluded.

Parents’ role in the class:

A positive partnership between school and home will greatly benefit each child, and help to insure each child’s success in Chemistry. If you, as a parent, have any questions regarding the course or your child’s progress in the course, please feel free to contact me via phone or email listed above.

As a parent, you can access any and all digital information from class. All digital information for the class can either be viewed through your child’s electronic device or be sending me an email to rbray@windsor-csd.org requesting access to any of the online content.

If you, as a parent, use chemistry at your place of work and would like to share that with the classes, please contact me directly to set up a presentation; it’s always great to see how the material we talk about is used in everyday life.