CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
CHEM 1005 Basic Chemistry

Semester/Year: Spring 2016

Lecture Hours: 3       Lab Hours: 0       Credit Hours: 3

Class Time:            Days: ---------       Room: ---------
N1: on-line

Instructor’s Name: Mitchel D. Millan, Ph.D.

Instructor's Contact Information:
Office: PS333, 307-2683017       Email: mmillan@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: MWF 11AM-12PM; T 1-3 PM

Course Description: Designed primarily for students who have not had high school chemistry or feel that they need a review, this course consists of a study of matter, atomic structure and bonding, the periodic table, chemical symbols, nomenclature and chemical equations, quantitative composition of compounds, calculations from chemical equations. Provides acceptable credit for students enrolled in agriculture, forestry, home economics, nursing, and petroleum technology. Not recommended for engineering, pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-pharmacy, pre-veterinary medicine or any of the physical science majors. Students needing laboratory credit should enroll concurrently in CHEM 1006. (Taken with CHEM 1006, equivalent to UW CHEM 1000.)

Statement of Prerequisites: none

Goal: This class will introduce students to the principles of chemistry. Skills involved will include (but will not be limited to) critical thinking, and ability to analyze qualitative, numerical and chemical problems.

Outcomes: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/chemistry/Undergraduate/LearningOutcome.php
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) understand the physical and chemical properties of matter.
2) perform basic algebraic operations relating to dimensional analysis with full attention to units and significant figures.
3) apply dimensional analysis to chemistry calculations
4) understand the basic and currently accepted models of the atom
5) understand the concepts of bonding
6) use the concepts of bonding in drawing simple Lewis structures and determining molecular geometry
7) use the concepts of electronegativity and symmetry to determine polarity
8) balance chemical equations
9) use the mole concept in stoichiometric calculations.

Methodology: Students are required to use the ALEKS Introductory College Chemistry tutorial and assessment system. ALEKS is a third party Learning Management System and access must be purchased separately. They will also use Casper College’s Moodle system for discussion Forums and as a document repository. See the SUPPLEMENTARY SYLLABUS for more detail.
Evaluation Criteria (1000 points for the course):

- **Moodle Forums (100 pts maximum)**. A discussion assignment will be posted as Forum topics in Moodle. These will be based somewhat loosely on the chapters in the text, so it is necessary for you to read each chapter as scheduled and post/reply by the date specified. These forums will be labeled as Ch2 Forum, Ch3 Forum, etc.. Your grade out of 10 pts will be based on the Forum Rubric posted in Moodle. The Forum scores added together contribute a maximum of 100 points towards the 1000 point total. Late Forums posts will not be graded. No partial credit will be given.

- **ALEKS Objectives (500 pts maximum)**. In what ALEKS calls “Learning Mode,” you will be working on **seven** ALEKS Objectives, containing a fixed number of topics (see last section of this syllabus) keyed to chapters in your textbook, and subject to completion dates listed in the Schedule below.

An ALEKS Objective will contain a list of topics found in a number of textbook chapter(s). When you choose a particular topic to learn, ALEKS will present you with a series of practice problems on that topic. The problems will have enough variability that you will only be able to get them consistently correct by understanding the core principle defining the topic. Once you can consistently get the problems for a given topic correct, ALEKS considers that you have learned the topic (“added to your pie slice”), and you may then choose another topic to learn.

Your percentage of the topics finished by the completion date for each Objective is recorded, ranging from 100% (all topics completed) to 0% (no topics completed). You can find your percentages in the GRADEBOOK of your ALEKS account. The ALEKS and Moodle systems do not communicate automatically, so you will not find your ALEKS scores in your Moodle gradebook, nor your Moodle Forum scores in the ALEKS gradebook. You will have to check both gradebooks (Moodle and ALEKS) to get a complete picture of your performance.

The percentages for the **FIVE** highest scoring Objectives (two lowest scoring Objectives dropped) will be added, and a maximum of 500 points will be contributed to your 1000 point total. For example:

Math and Algebra  
86% (score dropped)

Ch 2  
95%

Chs 3 & 4  
100%

Chs 5  
67% (score dropped)

Chs 6 & 7  
90%

Chs 8 & 9  
100%

Ch 10  
88%

Contribution to 1000 points = 95 + 100 +90 + 100 + 88 = 473 points

- **ALEKS Progress Assessments (50 points maximum)**. After each Objective, you will take a Progress Assessment to gauge your retention (“mastery”) of the topics covered. These are “quizzes” you take after the objectives. If ALEKS determines that your retention is shaky in some areas, you will be required to
relearn the material before you move on to new topics that build on these previous ones.

You can find your scores for these Progress Assessments in the REPORT of your ALEKS account, and scrolling down to the History section. A bar graph (one per Progress Assessment) will show your assessment score in blue, progress in learning mode in green, and topics left to be learned in yellow. Your score in Progress Assessments will be taken as the sum of blue and green.

At the end of the semester, the SINGLE highest scoring (blue plus green) Progress Assessment will be determined and DIVIDED by 2, giving a maximum of 50 points will be contributed to your 1000 point total. Since the only HIGHEST scoring Progress Assessment will be considered, it is crucial that you prepare and do well in all your Progress Assessments. Do not take any of these for granted.

For example:

07/23/2011 Progress Assessment 77 + 12 %

For example, shown above is the highest scoring Progress Assessment from July 23rd showing an Assessment score of 77% and a Progress in Learning Mode of 12% (the remaining 11% being material still unlearned by the student). The score for this highest Progress Assessment equals 77 + 12 = 89%. Therefore, the contribution to the 1000 points is 89 / 2 = 44.5 points.

- **ALEKS MidTerm Test (100 pts maximum).** This MidTerm Test in ALEKS will involve about 30 questions. Since it is a midterm test, it will cover only material from Objectives 2 and 3, that is, from Chapters 1 to 4 in your text. The Math review of Objective 1 from ALEKS is NOT included in the Midterm. Your percentage performance equals the contribution (for example, 27 out of 30 questions, 90% equals 90 pts) to the 1000 point course total.

- **Comprehensive ALEKS Assessment (100 pts maximum).** This comprehensive Final Test will contain about 30 questions, and will include all the Topics covered during the semester, including those already seen in the Midterm. Your percentage performance equals the contribution (for example, 87% equals 87 pts) to the 1000 point course total.

- **Time Well-Spent (100 pts maximum).**

**READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY!**

This course emphasizes mastery of the material through consistent and persistent work on ALEKS, making sure your time is well-spent. This means you are REQUIRED to spend AT LEAST 4 HOURS A WEEK on ALEKS. This is requirement is perfectly reasonable- the on-campus face-to-face class meets three hours a week, and certainly you should spend at least one hour studying for the course per week. Spread out your work evenly, rather than cramming all the work on the due date of the current Objective. Cramming almost certainly guarantees
you won’t get 100% of the topics in the ALEKS Objectives.

For Time Well-Spent, you can earn a maximum of 10 pts during a particular calendar week (Monday to Sunday). You get **1 point for each DAY** you spend **at least one hour on ALEKS** for a maximum of two days. Days that you spend less than an hour do not count. You will also earn **2 points per HOUR of work** for a maximum of four hours. **This does NOT mean you should spend ONLY two days and four hrs in the week (you will probably need to put in a lot more time than this)** - this means you only get credit for a maximum of two days and four hrs.

Here is a sample ALEKS work week:
Monday 1.5 hrs  Tuesday 2.5 hrs  Wednesday 1 hr  Thursday 3.5 hrs  Friday 0.5 hr

For this week, you get the 2 pts (2 days x 1 pt). Although you worked for 5 days, you get credit for only 2 days. In this example, you get the 2 pts credit for any two days except Friday, where you worked only half an hour.

For this week, you worked for $1.5 + 2.5 + 1 + 3.5 + 0.5 = 9$ hrs. However, you only get credit for a maximum of 4 hrs in the week, so you get your full 8 pts (4 hrs x 2 pts) here.

Your total points for this work week equal $2 + 8 = 10$ points, the maximum you can earn for any given week.

A second sample ALEKS work week:
Monday ---------  Tuesday ---------  Wednesday ---------  Thursday ---------  Friday 7 hrs

You completely spaced out about ALEKS during the week, and didn’t do any work until Friday. You only get 1 point for Friday, when you worked for more than an hour in ALEKS. Your total hours for this week were 7 hours, so you get 8 points (4 hrs x 2 pts). Your total points for this work week equal $1 + 8 = 9$ points out of the 10 points possible.

Do not try to cheat the system by just logging onto ALEKS for 4 hours and doing nothing. Here are two reasons why you shouldn’t.

1- ALEKS will log you off after a certain amount of time of inactivity. So, you can’t just log on, watch NCIS or Arrow and just do nothing on ALEKS.

2- Remember that Time Well-Spent points are separate from the 500 pts you can get for completing the 7 ALEKS Objectives. No work means no topics learned, and no Objectives completed. The Objectives has a greater grade weight than Time Well-Spent.

There are about 16 weeks in this Spring semester, but you will be graded for the top 10 weeks, dropping the remaining lower scoring weeks. You get a maximum of 10 weeks x 10 pts = 100 pts for Time Well-Spent. Remember that this is separate from the 500 pts you can get for completing the 7 ALEKS Objectives.
### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

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### Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

**Introductory Chemistry 4th Ed.** by Nivaldo Tro

### Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:

- By registering for, and staying in, this class, you agree to (i) abide by the policies, and (ii) fulfil all the requirements, described in this syllabus. Your instructor reserves the right to make revisions and modifications to this syllabus as needed, subject to sufficient notice to the class of such changes. You are responsible for all announcements (posted in Moodle). It is your responsibility to put in the necessary time in both ALEKS and Moodle.
- The term ‘Basic’ in Basic Chemistry is used to describe this course. It is assumed that as college students, you have the ‘basic’ science, math and English skills from high school. You may not have taken chemistry at all, but you should be able to do (or are currently taking) simple algebra and word-problem calculations. Your instructor will assume that you can READ. This is a science class that will exercise your science, math, and English abilities through a variety of on-line tutorials and assessments in ALEKS, as well as discussion topics in the Moodle forums. Ignoring your deficiencies in basic science, math, and English will not make Basic Chemistry any easier.
- Although this is an on-line class, your instructor reserves the right to initiate an Retention Alert after a continuous week of inactivity and an Faculty Initiated Withdrawal after two continuous weeks of inactivity (based on activity logs in ALEKS and Moodle).
- **The last day for withdrawal (a grade of W) without instructor permission is Apr 14.**

### Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

### Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director (Dr. Eric Mechalke), the Dean of the School of Science (Dr. Grant Wilson), and lastly the interim Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. Shawn Powell).

### Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.
Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student’s assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Schedule of Activities (Chapters are from Tro):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>FORUMS due in Moodle</th>
<th>FYI response in Moodle</th>
<th>ALEKS Objectives Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>(21 topics) Feb 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch 3 (Matter and Energy)</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>(Chs 3 &amp; 4, 23 topics)</td>
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<td>Ch 4 (Atoms and Elements)</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALEKS MidTerm Test</td>
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<td>March 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch 5 (Molecules and Compounds)</td>
<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>(21 topics) Mar 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch 6 (Chemical Composition)</td>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>(Chs 6 &amp; 7, 22 topics)</td>
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<td>Ch 7 (Chemical Reactions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch 10 (Chemical Bonding)</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>(18 topics) May 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive ALEKS Assessment</td>
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<td>May 9-11</td>
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*Chapter 1 contains introductory material, and will not have a Forum associated with it.
SUPPLEMENTARY SYLLABUS
Chem 1005: Basic Chemistry

Semester/Year: Spring 2016  Section N1

You will be using two Learning Management Systems (LMS): Moodle and ALEKS. It can be confusing having to use two different LMS’s for an on-line course. You must budget your time and create a schedule that allows you to work on both Moodle and ALEKS frequently. This is not your (great) grandmother’s correspondence course that did one topic per month exchanged through the postal mail. This on-line course will require a LOT of time and effort (especially ALEKS) through the convenience of your own computer, so your grade in this course will depend on hard, conscientious work on your part.

MOODLE:
Moodle is a FREE LMS that you access from the CC webpage (www.caspercollege.edu) by following the links to Current Students, then Moodle4Me. Your Moodle log-in and password are the same as your WebAdvisor (WA) log-in and password. If you do not know your WA information, you can get these from the Distance Education department (307-2683882 or distance_ed@caspercollege.edu).

Activities in Moodle include:
(i) Forum Discussions and FYI Responses. A discussion topic is assigned for most chapters covered in your textbook. You are to post your discussion to each Forum, as well as reply to other students’ posts. After the due date for the Forum Discussions, a video FYI will be posted, for which you will post at least one response. See below for the due dates to each Moodle Forum and FYI Response.

Moodle will also provide:
(ii) lecture notes (for the chapters in the text) that are used in the on-campus Chem 1005 sections. These pdf files are available to you as additional study guides if needed, and are not required in any way. You may do with these files as you wish.

(iii) constant reminders and updates. You need to check and work in Moodle frequently, just to keep on top of your course schedule and the requirements.

(iv) a means for you to communicate with your instructor and your fellow students. Moodle allows you to send messages to your instructor. The alternative would be to email your instructor at mmillan@caspercollege.edu.

Check Moodle daily to keep track of deadlines, to post in your Discussion Forums, as well as to watch out for important announcements.

ALEKS:
Chem 1005-N1 will also use the ALEKS on-line system for General Chemistry. This LMS might be different from systems you may have used in other on-line courses. ALEKS provides the advantages of one-on-one instruction, 24/7, from virtually any Web-based computer, for a fraction of the cost of a human tutor. ALEKS is a modern, powerful assessment and learning tool that can make your chances of doing well significantly higher.

Go to www.aleks.com and click on the New Student? Sign Up Now button.

In the Using ALEKS with a Class? Box, enter the course code XDGAR-QPRQK and click Continue. You should see the course (Chem 1005-N1 Spring 2016-N1 taught by Dr. Millan). Click Continue. If you have never used ALEKS before, create an ALEKS account name and password, and proceed to the Don’t Have A Code? box and click on Purchase An Access Code. This costs $60 (price subject to change without notice), over and above your Casper College fees. You will have to pay the access fee by credit or debit card. This Course Code is valid for Spring 2016 only. If you are taking this course during any other term, do NOT use this course code.
Be sure about your plans regarding this course. It is strongly recommended that you READ THROUGH THIS SYLLABUS COMPLETELY before finally purchasing access to ALEKS. If you decide that this course and ALEKS are not for you, you must call McGraw Hill at 877-833-5524. They generally allow a refund of the ALEKS access cost within 10 days without questions. Beyond this 10-day window, it might still be possible to request a refund within 30 days of your electronic purchase, but they MAY require certain documentation of you, such as proof that you are withdrawing the course.

Be aware that neither your instructor nor Casper College is involved in any student transactions with ALEKS, whether in the initial purchase of access to ALEKS, or in requesting a refund. For best results, you should access and work on ALEKS daily. You should spend no less than four hours a week to succeed in ALEKS.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH ALEKS?

Chronologically, the activities in ALEKS will be:

(i) a detailed TUTORIAL on how to navigate through ALEKS, as well as how to answer assessments.

(ii) an INITIAL ASSESSMENT (IA), to check your readiness for basic chemistry based on previous courses taken (if any). The IA is simply a diagnostic test to see where ALEKS should start you off for the term. Don’t freak out. Take it easy and do the IA. It does not factor into your grade for the course. An honest, accurate performance during the IA is essential to tailor ALEKS to your learning needs.

Your readiness for the course could range from very high (took chemistry before and did well) to none (never took chemistry before). It is extremely important that you do NOT consult any outside resources, such as Wikipedia, a friend, a textbook, etc., during this IA. A scientific calculator is allowed. Two adverse possibilities could result from a “faulty” IA:

- A typical IA goes for about 60-90 minutes. If you use any outside sources, the IA could stretch into several hours as ALEKS generates increasingly difficult questions trying to gauge the limits of your ability. If you obtain an artificially high score, you will enter Learning Mode and Assessments (see below) at a level higher than you are capable of.

-On the other hand, do not “dumb down” your performance, as you will start at a level lower than you can actually handle, leading to a greater number of subsequent topics Learning Modes and Assessments to reach your objectives, and a waste of your time. Avoid clicking on the "I Don’t Know" button unless you really have no idea of the answer.

(iii) ALEKS Objectives in Learning Mode. After the IA, ALEKS delivers personalized instruction from the chapters in your textbook (see main syllabus). This will include questions, diagrams, and calculations to explain material. You will receive instruction on the topics listed per ALEKS Objective, and it is your responsibility to finish these topics by the completion date listed.

(iv) Progress Assessments. When ALEKS determines that you have covered the requisite topics in Learning Mode, it will give you a number of assessments to assess your mastery of these topics. The cycle of Learning Mode and Progress Assessment will continue until the completion date (given below) for each chapter is past.

Notes for (ii) to (iv): After the IA, the material for the course will be presented to you in a Pie Chart. The slices will indicate the topics in Basic Chemistry that you will be tackling for the semester. These topics are grouped into ALEKS Objectives, which are keyed to chapters in your textbook. Although the pie chart is labeled by topic rather than by Objective or textbook chapter, arrows will point to the slice(s) on the pie and the topics you should be working on. White “dots” on the slices indicate which topics correspond to the current chapter and therefore can be worked on in Learning Mode, as well as the number of topics you have left to learn. The text below your pie chart in ALEKS will show where you are in your Intermediate Objectives, whether you are on track (with a certain number of topics left to master), or ahead (no topics left
to master) and thus will be allowed to proceed to the topics in the next Objective.

A Completion Date for each Objective is given in ALEKS and in the Schedule below (also in your main syllabus). You have up to the end of this date to finish all the necessary topics for the current Objective. Your percentage completion of the topics will be recorded after the completion date.

**IMPORTANT!!!** Even after the completion date, ALEKS will still require you to work on all unfinished topics from the past chapter that are necessary for future topics, before allowing you to go to the material for the current chapter. You will not get credit for these past topics, i.e., your percentage completion for an Objective does not increase past the completion date; you do not start earning credit again until you are done catching up and are back up to speed working on topics for the current chapter. This is why you must work on ALEKS at least two hours on a daily basis, rather than wait until or near the completion date. Delayed work MAY snowball until you are unable to catch up. It is your responsibility to complete the topics in Learning Modes and Assessments in ALEKS for each Objective in a timely manner.

(v) Midterm Tests. This will be about 30 question midterm covering material from Objectives 2 and 3 from ALEKS, which involve Chapters 1 to 4 from the text. The ALEKS Math Review from Objective 1 will NOT be part of the Midterm.

(vi) Comprehensive Assessment. This is the only comprehensive assessment (all ten chapters / seven Objectives) that will be given in ALEKS, which will include about 30 questions.

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