

# CHEM 0110: GENERAL CHEMISTRY I

FALL 2025

---

## AT A GLANCE

---

**Course Meetings** MWF 2-2:50 pm in Chevron 152

Lab and recitation times vary

**Professor** Jennifer Laaser

If you have questions for Dr. Laaser:

- Talk with her after class (she will be out by the blackboards in the Chevron Lobby)
- Send her a message on Canvas (*not* by email)

**Required Materials** You need the following for this course:

- *Textbook* - the textbook for this course is *Chemistry 2e* from OpenStax.
  - An electronic copy of this book is available for *free* (yes, free!) online at <https://openstax.org/details/books/chemistry-2e>
  - If you prefer a print copy, you can buy one at the above link (\$60) or from the bookstore (\$60 new, ~\$40 used)
- *Lab goggles and lab coat* - purchase these at the campus bookstore.  
You will not be allowed to enter the lab without goggles!
- *Scientific calculator* - graphing or non-graphing is ok, but you *may not* use your smartphone. Bring your calculator to all classes, exams, and labs.

---

## GRADING

---

**Graded Items** You will be graded on the following items in this course:

Item	Points Ea.	# Counted	Total Points
Problem Sets	5	12 (of 13)	60
Quizzes	15	8 (of 9)	120
Exam Modules	30	12	360
ACS Final			60
Lab			100
Total			700

These items are described in more detail on the next page.

**Letter Grades** Final letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Grade	Percent of Points Earned	Grade	Percent of Points Earned
A	93%-100%	C	73%-76.9%
A-	90%-92.9%	C-	70%-72.9%
B+	87%-89.9%	D+	67%-69.9%
B	83%-86.9%	D	63%-66.9%
B-	80%-82.9%	D-	60%-62.9%
C+	77%-79.9%	F	0%-59.9%

Note that the instructor may adjust scores on individual assessments upward if scores suggest that the assessment was too difficult, but scores will never be curved down - if everyone ends the semester with a 95% then everyone gets an A! Final grades reflect *your* performance, and you are *not* competing with the rest of the class.

---

## COURSE STRUCTURE

---

Our course has three major components:

**Lecture** In lecture, Dr. Laaser will guide you through the key concepts and ideas that you need to learn for this course.

Your lecture attendance will not be tracked, but you should plan to attend lecture regularly and participate actively. Dr. Laaser will often ask you to try a calculation and/or give her suggestions about what to do next. Please don't be shy about raising your hand, even if you are not sure about an answer - often, we can learn as much from an incorrect answer as we can from a correct one!

You are responsible for taking your own notes during lectures. Dr. Laaser will post note "templates" on Canvas if you wish to use them, but these are optional. If you miss class, you are responsible for reading the relevant textbook sections (indicated in the templates) to learn the material that was covered in your absence.

As you will frequently need to sketch diagrams, structures, or equations, Dr. Laaser strongly recommends that you take notes *by hand* (either on paper or using a tablet with a stylus) rather than typing on a keyboard. Laptops and smartphones should generally be silenced and put away during class.

**Recitation** In recitation, you will work with your peers and your TA to review assigned homework questions and related concepts. You will also take a quiz at the end of each recitation period (except in weeks when there is a scheduled exam).

If you are absent, you may coordinate with your TA to attend a different one of their recitation sections to make up your quiz. You may do this up to twice over the course of the semester. Further absences from recitation will not be accommodated.

**Lab** In lab, you will put ideas learned in this course into practice. Note that lab is taught independently from the lecture portion of the course, and any questions should be directed to your lab TA or the lab director.

Your lab grade will be reported to Prof. Laaser at the end of the semester and will make up approximately 14% of your final course grade.

---

## GRADED ITEMS

---

As noted above, you will be graded on the following items in this course:

**Problem Sets** Problem sets will be assigned weekly, and will be due by **5 pm each Monday via Gradescope** (see below).

Please note the following:

- Unless announced otherwise, the submission deadline is a *strict* deadline - no late work will be accepted.
- Problem sets will be graded on *completion* only. If you make a *complete* attempt to do every problem, and you show all of your work, you will receive full credit. If you skip any of the required problems or do not show all of your work (including all unit conversions), you will not receive full credit.
- There will be 13 problem sets assigned over the course of the semester. We will drop your lowest score (which may include a zero for a missed assignment), so only your top 12 homework scores will count toward your final grade.

- You may *discuss* the problems with your fellow students, but each student must prepare their own solutions independently.

We strongly *discourage*, but do not prohibit, use of AI tools like ChatGPT on problem sets. Remember, problem sets are graded on completion only - it is much more important that you put in the work to learn the material so that you are prepared for your quiz than that you get every answer right! If you do choose to check your work with an AI tool (or ask it for hints), please do so only *after* you have made a complete attempt to solve the problem by yourself, and assess the AI tool's answer critically - they are not always correct!

- All problem sets must be submitted via Gradescope. If you are officially registered for this class, you should receive an invitation to Gradescope within 24 hours of the first class meeting. If you do not, contact the instructor via Canvas to request access.

Instructions for submitting problem sets to Gradescope will be posted on Canvas and distributed with the first assignment.

- Solutions for each problem set will be posted on Canvas at the end of the week in which the problem set is due (i.e. after all recitation sections have taken the associated quiz).

**Quizzes** Quizzes will be given each week at the end of recitation.

Please note the following:

- Quiz questions will be based on or closely related to the week's assigned homework questions. The *best* way to prepare for the quizzes is to do the homework.
- There will be 9 quizzes over the course of the semester. We will drop your lowest quiz score (which may include a zero for a missed quiz), so only your top 8 quiz scores will count toward your final grade.

**Exams** There will be three midterm exams and a final exam. All exams will be given during regularly-scheduled class meetings and/or the final exam period.

Exams will be structured as follows:

- The midterm exams will be divided into "modules", each corresponding to approximately one chapter of the textbook. Each midterm will consist of *three* modules.
- The final exam will contain three new modules, and you will also be allowed to re-take up to three modules from the midterms on which you were not happy with your original score. For modules that you re-take, we will keep your *highest* score (which could be from the midterm if you do not do better on that module on the final).
- **I do not offer make-up exams.** If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to take an exam as scheduled due to University-sanctioned athletic or academic events, religious conflicts, or health-related reasons such as a scheduled surgery, please contact me as soon as possible to make other arrangements. Otherwise, you will receive a zero for all modules on the exam, and will need to use your re-takes on the final exam to complete them.
- During the last week of class, you will also take a standardized final exam produced by the American Chemical Society. More details on the format of this exam will be provided later in the semester.
- All exams must be completed *by yourself*, using only the resources explicitly allowed by the instructor. Collaboration or use of disallowed resources will be pe-

nalized according to the university's Academic Integrity policy, described under "Other Policies," below.

---

## SCHEDULE

---

**Important Dates** Class will meet regularly on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-2:50 pm.

Scheduled holidays and exam dates are listed below:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Labor Day (No Class)	Monday, September 1
Midterm 1	Wednesday, September 24
Fall Break (No Class)	Friday, October 10
Midterm 2	Wednesday, October 22
Midterm 3	Wednesday, November 19
ACS Final Exam	Wednesday, December 3
Final Exam	8 am on Monday, December 8 (location TBA)

---

## OTHER POLICIES AND RESOURCES

---

**Email and Canvas** All course announcements will be communicated via Announcements on Canvas. You are responsible for checking these announcements by email and/or on the Canvas site on a regular basis.

All course assignments will also be posted on Canvas. Announcements will only be sent for these items when there is a *change* to the regular schedule or to the assignment requirements. You are responsible for keeping track of all due dates and turning work in on time.

**Contacting the Instructor** All course-related inquiries must be submitted via Canvas's messaging system (access Canvas and click on "Inbox"). Messages sent by email will not receive a response.

Dr. Laaser will make an effort to respond to all course-related messages within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.

**Office Hours** Dr. Laaser will hold office hours immediately after every class (MWF 3-3:30 pm) in the Chevron lobby by the blackboards.

Your recitation TA will also hold office hours, which will be announced during your recitation section. Additional office hours may be offered by undergraduate teaching assistants (UTAs) and will be posted on Canvas as they are scheduled.

If you need help but are unable to attend regularly scheduled office hours, you are encouraged to make use of other tutoring resources provided by the department and university (see below).

If your question cannot be addressed through one of these venues, you may message Dr. Laaser to request an individual meeting, but please recognize that her schedule is very busy and she will not be able to accommodate meeting requests on short notice.

**Tutoring Resources** Pitt offers a number of tutoring resources for students seeking extra help. For this class, you are encouraged to make use of the following resources:

- *"On the Balcony" Tutoring* - FREE tutoring offered by senior undergraduate chemistry majors. See schedule here: <https://acspitt.weebly.com/tutoring.html>
- *Graduate Student Tutoring* - FREE tutoring offered by graduate students who have TA'd general chemistry before. See schedule here: <https://www.chem.pitt.edu>

[edu/undergraduate/bachelor-science-chemistry/tutoring](https://www.chem.pitt.edu/undergraduate/bachelor-science-chemistry/tutoring)

- *Private Tutors* - PAID tutoring offered by graduate students in the chemistry department. See list of tutors here: <https://www.chem.pitt.edu/undergraduate/bachelor-science-chemistry/tutoring>
- *Pitt Study Lab* - University resource offering peer tutoring, academic coaching, and collaborative learning groups. For more information, see here: <https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/study-lab>

**Classroom Environment** I strongly believe in the importance of diversity in our scientific community, and it is my goal that students from all backgrounds and identities feel welcomed and well-served by this course. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or your experiences within this course that you feel are acting as barriers to your full participation or achievement, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible so that we may take steps to address them.

Additionally, please remember that the University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, see: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/policies-procedures-and-practices>.

**Electronic Devices** You may use a tablet with a stylus to take notes, but unless directed otherwise, all other electronic devices (smartphones, laptops, etc.) should be silenced and put away during class.

**Classroom Recording** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use. If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record or tape classroom activities, you should contact your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (see below) to request an appropriate accommodation.

**Academic Integrity** Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html>). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy.

**Disabilities** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (<http://www.drs.pitt.edu/>), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, [drsrecep@pitt.edu](mailto:drsrecep@pitt.edu), (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Absences & Make-Up Policy** If you are experiencing COVID or flu symptoms, *DO NOT COME TO CLASS*. Note templates will be posted on Canvas, including a guide to the relevant textbook sections to enable you to catch up on what you missed.

If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to take a quiz or exam as scheduled due to University-sanctioned athletic or academic events, religious conflicts, or health-related reasons such as a scheduled surgery, please contact Dr. Laaser (for exams) or

your TA (for quizzes) as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

**Make-up work is not otherwise offered in this course, and you will receive a zero for missed homeworks, quizzes, and exams.** As described above, however, we do allow you to drop your lowest homework, quiz, and exam module scores, which may include zeros for missed work. So, as long as you do not miss more than one quiz or more than one exam, you will still have the opportunity to earn full credit in this course.

**Your Well-Being Matters!** College can be an exciting and challenging time for students. Taking time to maintain your well-being and seek appropriate support can help you achieve your goals and lead a fulfilling life. It can be helpful to remember that we all benefit from assistance and guidance at times, and there are many resources available to support your well-being while you are at Pitt. You are encouraged to visit Thrive@Pitt to learn more about well-being and the many campus resources available to help you thrive.

If you or anyone you know experiences overwhelming academic stress, persistent difficult feelings and/or challenging life events, you are strongly encouraged to seek support. In addition to reaching out to friends and loved ones, consider connecting with a faculty member you trust for assistance connecting to helpful resources.

The University Counseling Center is also here for you. You can call 412-648-7930 at any time to connect with a clinician. If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please call the University Counseling Center at any time at 412-648-7930. You can also contact Resolve Crisis Network at 888-796-8226. If the situation is life threatening, call Pitt Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911.

**Copyright** These materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials.

See Library of Congress Copyright Office and the [https://www.policy.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Policies/Community-Standards/Policy\\_CS\\_03.pdf](https://www.policy.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Policies/Community-Standards/Policy_CS_03.pdf) University Copyright Policy.