

Syllabus

Chemistry 1A - Fall 2026 – UCSB

First Quarter of General Chemistry for Science Majors
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00-8:50 am – CHEM 1179

Instructor: Dr. Darby Feldwinn
email: feldwinn@chem.ucsb.edu
Office: CHEM 1105
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 pm and Wednesday 9:15-10:15 am or by appointment
Phone: (805) 893-2127
Website: people.chem.ucsb.edu/feldwinn/darby/Chem1A/Home.html

**Students are responsible for checking their UCSB email accounts regularly.
Important announcements will be emailed.**

Required Text and Materials

- 1) Chemical Principles (9th Ed) by Steven S. Zumdahl
- 2) ALEKS online homework: aleks.com
- 3) iClicker Student, UCSB provides this for free
- 4) Calculator, please bring your calculator to every class

Additional Help

Course TAs:

Talia Daghighian

email: tdaghighian@ucsb.edu

Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 3:00-4:00 pm

Location: CHEM 1005C

Youwei Yin

email: youwei_yin@ucsb.edu

Office Hours: Mon. & Thur. 2:00-3:00 pm

Location: CHEM 1005C

Course LAs:

Amy Behlendorf, Carolyn McNay, Grace Lu, Nelson Zhang, and Patrick Francis

CLAS (clas.sa.ucsb.edu):

- CLAS offers organized tutor groups and drop-in sessions. The organized tutor groups meet twice a week for one hour each. For more information, visit their website at clas.sa.ucsb.edu. I highly recommend signing up for a CLAS tutor group; many students have shared positive feedback about their experiences.

Financial Emergencies

UCSB has aid for students during financial emergencies. If you have already used up your loan eligibility you are welcome to email FinancialCrisis@sa.ucsb.edu, and share your situation and they may be able to help you pay for ALEKS or other chemistry related materials.

DSP

If you require disability-related accommodations for this course, please reach out to the DSP office at dsp.sa.ucsb.edu. If you have any other questions, feel free to email me directly.

Student Conduct

I do not tolerate any form of cheating in this class, and all instances will be reported to the Student-Faculty Conduct Committee. Please review the UCSB Standards of Student Conduct for more information: sa.ucsb.edu/regulations/student-conduct-code/student-conduct-code.

Grading

Quizzes (10/7/26, 10/26/26, 11/18/26, & 12/4/26)	(4 @ 6 pts	~4%)
• Up to 10 iClicker points can replace one quiz score.		
Midterms (10/16/26, 11/4/26, & 11/25/26)	(3 @ 100 pts	60%)
Final Exam (12/11/26 8:00-9:00 am)	(1 @ 100 pts	20%)
Homework Assignments	(1 @ 5 pts + 6 @ 4 pts + 19 pts pie	~10%)
• Lowest homework score, excluding the pre-course assignment, will be dropped.		
• ~40% of your homework grade will come from the percentage of the pie you finish (19 pts).		
Discussion Section Attendance	(7 @ 4 pts	~6%)
• You can miss up to 3 discussion sections (depending on when holidays fall) without it negatively affecting your grade.		

If your final exam score is higher than your lowest midterm score (including a score of **0** for a missed midterm), your lowest midterm score will be replaced by your final exam score.

You must take the final exam to pass the course.

NO MAKE-UP FINAL EXAM WILL BE OFFERED EXCEPT WHEN A SCHOOL-APPROVED INCOMPLETE HAS BEEN GRANTED.

If you miss a midterm for any reason (e.g., illness, an athletic event, a funeral, a wedding, etc.), you have two options (see **Midterm and Final Exam Guidelines** for more details):

1. The missed midterm may become the lowest midterm score that is **replaced** by your final exam score.
2. You may make up **one** missed midterm immediately after completing the final exam.

Discussion Sections

- You must attend the discussion section you are signed up for.
 - Bring your calculator and a information sheet to each section.
- Before coming to section, spend 30 minutes working on the week's assigned problems (found on Canvas). It's okay if you don't finish all the problems.
- You can earn up to 28 points for discussion sections.
 - Up to 4 points can be earned for each section.
 - 1 point is awarded for coming prepared, which requires showing the work completed before attending.
 - 3 points are awarded for attendance:
 - Deduce 1 point if you arrive late or leave early.
 - No points will be given if your presence is less than 25 minutes.
- During discussion sections, 15 minutes will be given for comparing work with the other students. In the remaining time, the TA/LAs will go over select problems.
- If there's a holiday on the day of your discussion section, you should still complete the assigned problems. Your TA will provide solutions afterward.

Quiz Guidelines

- All quizzes are administered through Canvas.
- You have a 12-hour window (9:00 am and 9:00 pm) to complete each quiz. Start early enough to finish by the deadline.
- Each quiz is timed at 30 minutes.
- Quizzes include both short answer and multiple-choice questions.
- No partial credit is awarded for incorrect answers.
- Use only the exam information sheet, calculator, and scratch paper during quizzes.
- If a quiz is not completed by its due date, you can still view the questions and answers on Canvas.
 - Click on the quiz.
 - DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS; simply hit submit to see the correct answers.
 - Answering after the deadline results in a quiz score of -2 points.

Midterm and Final Exam Guidelines

- Midterms and the final exam will include both short-answer and multiple-choice questions.
- No partial credit will be awarded for incorrect answers.
- Exams will be graded and returned through GradeScope: [gradescope.com](https://www.gradescope.com).
- Calculators are permitted during exams.
- An exam information sheet containing the periodic table, constants, unit conversions, and relevant equations, will be provided.
- Bring your UCSB student ID (or another government-issued photo ID) to the final exam.
- If a cell phone, smartwatch, smart glasses, or any other device capable of taking pictures or communicating with others is visible during an exam, your exam will be collected immediately, and you will receive a score of 0 on the exam. This score cannot be dropped.
- Earbuds and headphones are not permitted during exams.
- Sitting next to another student with the same version of the exam will result in a **5-point penalty**.
- Continuing to work after time has been called will result in a **5-point penalty**.
- You may make up **one** missed midterm immediately after completing the final exam. Any additional missed midterms will receive a score of 0. Because your lowest midterm score is replaced by your final exam score, if you miss **two** midterms, you may make up one of them, and the other may be replaced by your final exam score. If you miss **three** midterms, one missed midterm will remain a 0 and cannot be replaced.
 - If you plan to make up a midterm, email me no later than the last day of the quarter indicating which midterm(s) you missed and that you plan to take a make-up exam. Failure to notify me may make you ineligible to take the make-up exam.
 - The make-up midterm will cover the same chapters as the original midterm but will contain different questions.
 - If you receive DSP accommodations and need to make up a midterm, your accommodations will be provided as long as you submit a proctor request for the date of the final exam with the appropriate extended testing time. Students without extended-time accommodations will have **2 hours and 20 minutes** to complete both the final exam and the make-up midterm.
 - If you missed more than one midterm, I will determine which make-up exam you will take. You will be informed of this decision on the day of the final exam.

Homework

- Online homework will be assigned through ALEKS ([aleks.com](https://www.aleks.com)). Your ALEKS course code for this class is: **provided on 9/28**.
- INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU HAVE AN ALEKS ACCOUNT:
 - Open a web browser
 - Go to [aleks.com](https://www.aleks.com)
 - Sign into your account
 - Click on "Add/Change Classes"
 - Enter the course code: **provided on 9/28**
 - If time remains on your subscription, switch to the ALEKS account for this course using the steps below, otherwise purchase a new subscription.
 - Select "Use remaining time from ..."
 - Verify your perm number by navigating to "manage my classes" through the ≡ icon (3 bars) in the upper left corner of the screen. Click the down arrow next to your name and select "account settings." Click "edit" next to your school and check and change your perm number, if needed.
- INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ALEKS ACCOUNT:
 - Open a web browser
 - Go to [aleks.com](https://www.aleks.com)
 - Click on "SIGN UP NOW"
 - Enter the course code: **provided on 9/28**
 - Purchase an ALEKS subscription
 - You will use ALEKS for the entire general chemistry series. You may either purchase a subscription just for this quarter or to cover the entire year.

- Enter your personal information
 - There will be a box that says “optional, enter your student ID;” you MUST enter your perm number (enter seven characters, do NOT include any dashes or spaces). If your perm number is not entered or wrong you will not get credit for the assignments.
 - To edit account details such as your perm number, navigate to “manage my classes” through the ≡ icon (3 bars) in the upper left corner of the screen. Click the down arrow next to your name and select “account settings.” Click “edit” next to your school and correct your perm number.
- If this is your first time using ALEKS, refer to the instructions at: people.chem.ucsb.edu/feldwinn/darby/ALEKS.htm.
- Due dates for ALEKS assignments will be announced in class and sent via UCSB email. Assignments are due by 10:00 pm on the due date.
- Your lowest ALEKS score (excluding the pre-course assignment) will be dropped.
- Book problems assigned per chapter are mandatory, although not collected. These significantly impact your overall grade. Expecting an A or B in the class without completing these is unrealistic.

iClickers

- iClickers will be used during class.
- Each question is worth 0.2 points:
 - 0.1 points for attempting the question.
 - An additional 0.1 points for each correct answer.
- Up to 10 iClicker points can be used to replace your lowest quiz score.
- There are no exceptions or excuses for missed iClicker points.
- More than 10 iClicker points will be available throughout the quarter.

Support for Students in Distress

- Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationships, depression, or cultural differences, can impact students’ ability to succeed and thrive.
- If you find yourself in a distressing situation and wish to speak with someone confidentially, consider the following free options:
 - UCSB’s Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS): Provides resources and confidential counseling. Contact at 805-893-4411 or visit caps.sa.ucsb.edu.
 - UCSB’s Social Work Services: Offers confidential services to support students’ health and wellness. Contact at 805-893-3371.
 - The Office of the Ombuds: Provides confidential consultation on various issues. Contact at 805-893-3285 or visit ombuds.ucsb.edu.
 - In emergency or extreme situations, call 911 immediately.
- If a faculty member becomes aware of a student in distress, they are required to report the situation to UCSB’s Student Mental Health Coordination Services. Note: faculty are not considered confidential resources for these matters.

Important Dates

Last day to add:	10/14/26
Last day to drop:	10/21/26
Last day to change grading option:	12/4/26

This is a tentative lecture schedule, midterm, quiz, and final exam times will not change. The class may be forced to deviate from this syllabus in the case of natural disasters, pandemics, or other things outside of the instructor's control. If this happens, plans laid out in the syllabus (including but not limited to: timing, location of class, and point values of assignments) are subject to change.

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
		Sept. 25 Welcome Chap. 1 - Chemists and Chemistry
Sept. 28 Chap. 1 - Chemists and Chemistry Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions	Sept. 30 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions	Oct. 2 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions
Oct. 5 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry	Oct. 7 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 & 2; Canvas)	Oct. 9 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry
Oct. 12 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 14 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 16 MIDTERM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 3)
Oct. 19 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 21 (Drop Deadline) Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 23 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry Chap. 5 - Gases
Oct. 26 Chap. 5 - Gases Quiz 2 (Chapter 4; Canvas)	Oct. 28 Chap. 5 - Gases	Oct. 30 Chap. 5 - Gases Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory
Nov. 2 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory	Nov. 4 MIDTERM 2 (Chapters 4 & 5)	Nov. 6 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory
Nov. 9 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory	Nov. 11 Holiday	Nov. 13 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory
Nov. 16 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts	Nov. 18 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts Quiz 3 (Chapter 12; Canvas)	Nov. 20 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts
Nov. 23 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts	Nov. 25 MIDTERM 3 (Chapters 12 & 13)	Nov. 27 Holiday
Nov. 30 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals	Dec. 2 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals	Dec. 4 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals Quiz 4 (Chapter 14; Canvas)
Friday - Dec. 11 FINAL - 8:00-9:05 AM CHEM 1179 MAKE-UP MIDTERM (IF NEEDED) - 9:15-10:20 AM CHEM 1179		