

Syllabus

Chemistry 3A - Fall 2025 – UCSB

First Quarter of General Chemistry for Chemical Science Majors

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00-8:50 am – CHEM 1171

Instructor: Dr. Darby Feldwinn
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Office: CHEM 1105
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 pm and Friday 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 (8th 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 TA:
Waseem Shindy
email: wshindy@ucsb.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00-10:00 am
Location: CHEM 1005C

Course LAs:
Carolyn McNay and Grace Lu

CLAS (clas.sa.ucsb.edu):

- Asynchronous Tutorial Groups: These provide access to a Canvas page featuring videos and additional resources.
- Drop-in Sessions: A tutor will be available to answer questions. For locations and schedules, check their website: <https://clas.sa.ucsb.edu/subjects/biology-chemistry/drop-schedules>.

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 CHEM 3A 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 (10/8/25, 10/29/25, 11/17/25, & 12/5/25)	(4 @ 6 pts	~5%)
• Up to 10 iClicker points can replace one quiz score.		
Midterms (10/17/25, 11/3/25, & 11/24/25)	(3 @ 100 pts	~56%)
Final Exam (12/12/25 8:00-9:00 am)	(1 @ 100 pts	~19%)
Homework Assignments	(1 @ 10 pts + 7 @ 5 pts + 34 pts pie	~15%)
• Lowest homework score will be replaced with up to 5 points earned from pre-chapter assessments.		
• ~50% of your homework grade will come from the percentage of the pie you finish (34 pts).		
• The pre-course assignment is worth 10 points and cannot be replaced.		
Discussion Section Attendance	(7 @ 4 pts	~5%)
• You can miss up to 3 discussion sections (depending on when holidays fall) without it negatively affecting your grade.		

NO MAKE-UP MIDTERMS OR FINAL WILL BE OFFERED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE A SCHOOL APPROVED INCOMPLETE IS WARRANTED.

If you miss a midterm for any reason (e.g. illness, sports event, funeral, wedding, etc.), that midterm will be dropped and the final exam will be weighted at 38% of your overall class grade. Any additional missed midterms will not be replaceable.

You must take the final to pass the class.

If you take all the midterms and score higher on the final exam than your lowest midterm score, then your lowest midterm score will be dropped and the final exam will be weighted at 38% of your overall class grade.

Discussion Sections

- You must attend the discussion section you are signed up for.
 - Bring your calculator and a constant 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:
 - Deduct 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 penalty of -2 points.

Midterm and Final Exam Guidelines

- The midterms and final exam will feature both short answer and multiple-choice questions.
- No partial credit is awarded for incorrect answers.
- Exams are graded and returned via GradeScope: [gradescope.com](https://www.gradescope.com).
- Calculators are permitted during exams.
- An exam information page, including the periodic table, constants, unit conversions, and equations, will be provided.
- Bring your student I.D. (or another government issued I.D.) to the final exam.
- Looking or using a cell phone during the exam results in an exam score of 0 that cannot be dropped.
- Sitting next to someone with the same version of the exam, incurs a penalty of 5 points.
- Headphones are NOT allowed during exams.
- Continuing to work on your exam after time is called, incurs a penalty of 5 points.

Homework

- Online homework will be assigned through ALEKS ([aleks.com](https://www.aleks.com)). Your ALEKS course code for this class is: **provided on 9/29**.
- 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 9/29**.
 - 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 9/29**.
 - 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) can be replaced with up to 5 points from pre-chapter assessments.
- 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.

Pre-Chapter Assessments

- Before each chapter, a pre-chapter assessment will be available on Canvas.
- Due dates for pre-chapter assessments will be announced in class and sent to your UCSB email. They must be submitted by 10:00 pm on the due date.
- Each pre-chapter assessment is worth 1 point.
- Up to 5 points from these assessments can replace your lowest ALEKS score, excluding the pre-course assignment.
- Do not consult external resources for these assessments; you are only graded on completion, not accuracy.

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 Service. Note: faculty are not considered confidential resources for these matters.

Important Dates

Last day to add:	10/15/25
Last day to drop:	10/22/25
Last day to change grading option:	12/5/25

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. 26 Welcome Chap. 1 - Chemists and Chemistry
Sept. 29 Chap. 1 - Chemists and Chemistry Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions	Oct. 1 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions	Oct. 3 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions
Oct. 6 Chap. 2 - Atoms, Molecules, and Ions Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry	Oct. 8 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 & 2; Canvas)	Oct. 10 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry
Oct. 13 Chap. 3 - Stoichiometry Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 15 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 17 MIDTERM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 3)
Oct. 20 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 22 (Drop Deadline) Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry	Oct. 24 Chap. 4 - Types of Chemical Reactions and Solution Stoichiometry Chap. 5 - Gases
Oct. 27 Chap. 5 - Gases	Oct. 29 Chap. 5 - Gases Quiz 2 (Chapter 4; Canvas)	Oct. 31 Chap. 5 - Gases Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory
Nov. 3 MIDTERM 2 (Chapters 4 & 5)	Nov. 5 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory	Nov. 7 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory
Nov. 10 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory	Nov. 12 Chap. 12 - Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Theory	Nov. 14 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts
Nov. 17 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts Quiz 3 (Chapter 12; Canvas)	Nov. 19 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts	Nov. 21 Chap. 13 - Bonding: General Concepts
Nov. 24 MIDTERM 3 (Chapters 12 & 13)	Nov. 26 Review	Nov. 28 Holiday
Dec. 1 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals	Dec. 3 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals	Dec. 5 Chap. 14 - Covalent Bonding: Orbitals Quiz 4 (Chapter 14; Canvas)
Friday Dec. 12 FINAL - 8:00-9:00 NH 1006		