

CHEM 1101 A and B for Fall 2026

Chemistry for Engineering Students

We, the people of the Faculty of Science at Carleton University, acknowledge that our campus is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people. Miigwetch for your hospitality and stewardship of this territory and the teachings that come from it. We are grateful for this land, the air that we breathe, and the water that sustains us all as well as for the animals, plants and other living beings: these enable us to research, teach, mentor, support, study, and learn. We recognize our responsibility to our natural environment and to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

All dates and times referenced in this course pertain to local time at Carleton University. This corresponds to Eastern Standard Time (EST) with Daylight Savings Time applied on the appropriate dates.

Course Instructor Section A: David Brock

How to address me: Anything respectful (ex. Dave, Doc Brock, Dr. Brock, etc.)

Email: David.Brock3@Carleton.ca

Best Ways to be in Touch: see page 7 (in class, via email, or during student hours)

Student Hours: Mon-Thurs, 1:00-2:00pm, SC 226

Office Hours Location: Room 226, SC Building

Course Instructor Section B: Edward Lai

How to address me: Anything respectful (ex. Ed, Edward, Dr. Lai, etc.)

Email: Edward.Lai@carleton.ca

Student Hours: appointment by email

Office Location: Room 230, SC Building

Class Location: Please check Carleton Central for the room location.

Class Times: 11:30-1:00 Tuesday(s) & Thursdays (section A),

2:30-4:00 Monday(s) & Wednesday(s) (section B)

Prerequisites: Ontario 4U/M in Chemistry or equivalent

Preclusions: CHEM 1000 (no longer offered), 1005 (no longer offered), CHEM 1001, CHEM 1011

Department/Unit: Chemistry

Lab Coordinators:

Natalie Mesnic

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Learning Outcomes and Topics Covered

Course Description

Topics include stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structure, thermodynamics and chemical equilibrium, acid-base chemistry, carbon dioxide in water, alkalinity, precipitation, electrochemistry, kinetics and basic organic chemistry. Laboratory component emphasizes techniques and methods of basic experimental chemistry. Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

The course has an emphasis on the development of skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, and quantitative reasoning; these “transferrable skills” are essential to success in not just chemistry but also in other courses and many occupations. Any student receiving credit for Chem 1001 will be expected to demonstrate competence in his or her ability to:

Discipline-Specific Outcomes	Transferrable-Skill Outcomes
Describe the importance of chemistry in everyday life and the interdisciplinary nature of chemistry.	Analyze and critically assess problems, and take a systematic approach to solve them.
Use critical thinking skills to explain, make connections between and apply chemical principles, laws, and theories pertaining to atomic and molecular structure, thermodynamics and chemical equilibrium, acid-base chemistry, carbon dioxide in water, alkalinity, precipitation, electrochemistry, kinetics and basic organic chemistry.	Obtain, evaluate, and integrate information from various sources, and determine its relevance. Work with others in an effective, practical, social, and ethical manner. Prioritize a set of tasks and manage the use of his or her time. Execute mathematical calculations accurately.
Evaluate and assess chemical data and explain how they relate to chemical theories/laws.	Communicate thoughts, ideas, and observations verbally and in writing. Recognize when to seek assistance.
Apply chemical theories or laws to solve a variety of new qualitative and quantitative chemical problems.	Develop respect for, and comply with, safety, regulations and policies.
Conduct laboratory experiments and draw conclusions from collected experimental data and results.	Accept responsibility for his or her decisions, actions, and non-actions.
Safely use a variety of laboratory equipment and instrumentation to perform experimental procedures and explain the underlying theory behind all of them.	

Topics to be Covered

A detailed list of topics to be covered, and important dates can be found on pages 8-10 of this syllabus and in the calendar found on the last page

Additional important dates and deadlines can be found here:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/academic-dates/>, including class suspension for fall, winter breaks, and statutory holidays.

Textbook

The text for the course is "Chemistry" 4th Canadian Edition by Olmsted, Williams and Burk published by Wiley. The ebook is available from Carleton's bookstore (\$60+tax),.

The latter is the recommended package to buy.

Assessments

Grade Breakdown

Component	Notes	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
Mastering	6 Online Homework Assignments	5	--	5	--	5	--	5	--
Quizzes	Weekly Online Quizzes	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Laboratory	Four experiments	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Test 1	2 h	15	15	7.5	7.5	15	15	7.5	7.5
Test 2	2 h	15	15	22.5	22.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Final Exam	3 hours	30	35	30	35	37.5	42.5	45	50

Grades for each component of the course will be released only via Brightspace.

To obtain credit for the course, all three requirements below must be met:

1. Obtain a minimum of 50% on the overall course grade, as calculated above using the method that gives the highest grade.
2. All laboratory experiments MUST be completed, and all lab reports MUST be submitted by the last day of classes (Dec 11, 2026).

Students who fail to meet the above requirements will receive a course grade of F and will not receive credit for the course.

Mastering Chemistry Online Homework Assignments

The optional (see Grading schemes above) homework system, Mastering Chemistry, can be purchased from Carleton's bookstore (\$76+tax), or at a discounted price (\$60+tax) directly from the publisher using the instructions posted on the course Brightspace page. Problem assignments will be given regularly via Mastering Chemistry (approximately one assignment every two weeks). It is your responsibility to check the answers and to take action if you have not understood the latest material. **Those who neglect these assignments do not typically do well on tests and exams, where the stakes are much higher. Evidence from previous years shows that those who scored well on their homework assignments typically also scored well in the course.**

Quizzes

There will be 12 timed quizzes (60 minutes per quiz), but only the best 10 will be used to calculate your mark on the Brightspace Quiz component of the course. If you receive academic accommodations for a missed quiz, the remaining 10 quizzes will be counted.

Access to these timed quizzes starts on Sunday at 12:01 am and closes on Monday at 11:55 pm. Quizzes are 1 hour in length and therefore must be started by the Monday at 10:55pm at the latest. Quizzes will begin on Sept 13th and continue weekly for the rest of the term, with the exception of Fall Break (week of Oct 26th). Please see the course calendar for more details.

Laboratory

Details of the laboratory portions of this course can be found on the Brightspace site. Students should look to see which lab group they have been assigned to (they can find this under "groups" in the "tools" drop-down menu) on the lab Brightspace page (*Merged CHEM1101 L1-6 Chemistry for Engineers (LAB) Fall 2026*) to ensure they are coming on the correct day based on the lab schedule posted in the "lab overview" module. Students are required to wear protective goggles (\$6.50+tax), a lab coat (\$30.75+tax) and use a lab notebook (\$11.95+tax) which can all be purchased from Campus Store (<https://carleton.bookware3000.ca/>)

An important detail is that you must complete all activities of the laboratory portion before the last day of classes (Dec 11, 2025) to receive a passing grade in this course.

Term Tests

The term tests will be scheduled by the Registrar's office and will take place on campus, outside of class time the weeks of Oct. 16 and Nov. 20 (which can include and will most likely take place on Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday).

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's office and will take place on campus, between Dec. 12 and Dec. 23 (which can include Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday).

Late and Missed Work Policies

Late Work

Students have *one to two weeks* (see the lab schedule for due dates) to complete and submit their lab reports for each lab, and multiple submissions are permitted up until the due date. As a result, lab reports that are submitted late for any reason will be subject to the late penalty of 10% per day, with a mark of 0 assigned if an assignment is submitted more than 4 days late. Therefore, you are encouraged to submit your lab report a day or two early, and update it if necessary, to ensure that you have no issues with your lab submission.

Missed Work

For short term (a week or less) incapacitation, students must complete and submit the [Academic Consideration for Coursework Form - Registrar's Office](https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/) (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>) within 48 hours of the missed work. For approved missed tests, the weight will be transferred to the final exam. For missed quizzes, the top 10 of 12 quizzes are used to calculate the final mark and the missed quiz would be 1 of the 2 quizzes not counted. Assignments are open for two week periods whereupon the answers are released. In the event that a due date is missed, the work on the assignment up to that point is used for that assignment grade and extensions are not provided. Students are encouraged to start the assignments early. There is a single makeup lab opportunity available to students in the event that they have received a lab deferral. Therefore, missing more than one lab, deferred or not, will result in an F in the course as the course/department requirement that "All laboratory experiments MUST be completed and all lab reports MUST be submitted by the last day of classes (Dec 11, 2026)" would not be fulfilled.

Long term (longer than 1 week) incapacitation, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and discussions of accommodations may involve the Chair of the Department of Chemistry and/or the Office of the Dean of Science.

Academic Accommodations and Regulations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

AI Use in This Course

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

Documenting AI Use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. As our understanding of the uses of GenAI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of GenAI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Academic Integrity

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Misconduct in scholarly activity will not be tolerated and will result in consequences as outlined in Carleton University’s Academic Integrity Policy. A list of standard sanctions in the Faculty of Science can be found here.

Additional details about this process can be found on the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by Carleton University’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students are expected to act responsibly and engage respectfully with other students and members of the Carleton and the broader community. See the [Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) for details regarding the expectations of non-academic behaviour of students. Those who participate with another student in the commission of an infraction of this Policy will also be held liable for their actions.

Mental Health and Wellness:

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>.

Communicating With You

This is a big class, but you will find that you can get any help you need easily by one of the following methods:

1. If it is a course content related question, please post it to the Brightspace forum or bring it to the Chemistry Help Center. Chances are if you have the question, your colleagues do as well and could benefit from the answer.
2. Visit an instructor in their office hour. David Brock's office hours will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 (Also on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-2:00 but priority will be given to second year orgo students). Edward Lai's office hours can be made by e-mail appointment.
3. Attend the drop-in Chemistry Help Center. Hours will be posted on Brightspace at the beginning of term and additional hours may be posted as well.
4. If it is an administration/accommodation related issue, email Dr. Brock directly (david.brock3@carleton.ca). Please note, if it is a course content related question, it will be redirected to the Brightspace forum, office hours or Chemistry Help Center.
5. Your TAs, fellow students and other people on campus are also great resources and form a great study tool.

Syllabus

1. Fundamental Concepts of Chemistry – this material is assumed from high school and is not covered in the course specifically. Review it if necessary.

Atoms, Molecules, and Compounds
Measurements in Chemistry
Chemical Problem Solving
Counting Atoms: The Mole
Amounts of Compounds
Aqueous Solutions
Writing Chemical Equations
The Stoichiometry of Chemical Reactions
Yields of Chemical Reactions
The Limiting Reactant

4. Atoms and Light

Characteristics of Atoms
Characteristics of Light
Absorption and Emission Spectra
Properties of Electrons
Quantization and Quantum Numbers
Shapes of Atomic Orbitals

5. Atomic Energies and Periodicity

Orbital Energies
Structure of the Periodic Table
Electron Configurations
Periodicity of Atomic Properties
Energetics of Ionic Compounds
Ions and Chemical Periodicity

6. Fundamentals of Chemical Bonding

Overview of Bonding
Lewis Structures
Molecular Shapes: Tetrahedral Systems
Other Molecular Shapes
Properties of Covalent Bonds

7. Theories of Chemical Bonding

Localized Bonds
Hybridization of Atomic Orbitals
Multiple Bonds

8. Effects of Intermolecular Forces

Effects of Intermolecular Forces
Types of Intermolecular Forces

Liquids
Forces in Solids
Order in Solids
Phase Changes

2. The Behaviour of Gases

Pressure
Describing Gases
Gas Mixtures
Gas Stoichiometry
Molecular View of Gases
Additional Gas Properties
Non-Ideal (Real) Gases

14. Principles of Chemical Equilibrium

Describing Chemical Equilibria
Dynamic Equilibrium
The Equilibrium Constant
Reversibility
Properties of Equilibrium Constants
Concentration Units and Activities
Pure Liquids, Pure Solids, and Solvents
Direction of a Reaction at Equilibrium
Magnitudes of Equilibrium Constants
Thermodynamics and Equilibrium
Free Energy and the Equilibrium Constant
Calculating K_{eq} from ΔG°
Equilibrium Constants and Temperature
Shifts in Equilibrium
Le Châtelier's Principle
Changes in Amounts of Reagents
Effect of Catalysts
Effect of Temperature
Working with Equilibria
Chemistry of Equilibria
Initial Conditions and Concentration Tables
Calculating Equilibrium Concentrations
Working with Small Equilibrium Constants
Working with Large Equilibrium Constants
Equilibria in Aqueous Solutions
Species in Solution
Types of Aqueous Equilibria
Identifying Types of Equilibria
Spectator Ions

15. Aqueous Acid–Base Equilibria

Proton Transfers in Water
Conjugate Acid–Base Pairs
Autohydrolysis of Water
Strong Acids
Strong Bases
The pH Scale
Weak Acids and Bases
Weak Acids: Proton Transfer to Water
Weak Bases: Proton Transfer from Water
Recognizing Acids and Bases
Oxoacids
Carboxylic Acids
Other Acids
Weak Bases
Acidic and Basic Salts
Salts of Weak Acids
Salts of Weak Bases
Summarizing Acids and Bases
Factors Affecting Acid Strength
Effect of Charge
Structural Factors
Multiple Equilibria
Polyprotic Acids
Salts of Polyprotic Acids

16. Applications of Aqueous Equilibria

Buffer Solutions
The Composition of Buffer Solutions
Molecular View of a Buffer Solution
The Buffer Equation
Buffer Action
Capacity and Preparation of Buffer Solutions
Buffer Capacity
Buffer Preparation
Acid–Base Titrations
Titration of a Weak Acid by OH^- Ions
Titration of a Weak Base with H_3O^+ Ions
Titration of Polyprotic Acids
Indicators
Solubility Equilibria
Precipitation Equilibria
The Common-Ion Effect
Effects of pH

3. Energy and Its Conversion

Types of Energy
Kinetic and Potential Energies
Electrical Energy
Chemical Energy
Mass
Thermal Energy
Radiant Energy
Energy Transfers and Transformations
Thermodynamics
Terms of Thermodynamics
Conservation of Energy
Heat
Work
First Law of Thermodynamics
State and Path Functions
Thermodynamic Path Functions
Energy Changes in Chemical Reactions
Features of Reaction Energies
Path Independence
Bond Energies
Reaction Energies
Measuring Energy Changes: Calorimetry
Calorimeters
Types of Calorimeters
Calculating Energy Changes
Molar Energy Change
Enthalpy
Expansion Work
Definition of Enthalpy
Energy and Enthalpy
Energy and Enthalpy of Vapourization
Enthalpies of Formation
Enthalpy Changes for Chemical Reactions
Enthalpy Changes Under Non-Standard Conditions
Bond Energies and Enthalpies of Formation
Born-Fajans-Haber Cycles
Relationship Between Enthalpy and the Equilibrium Constant

12. Spontaneity of Chemical Processes

Spontaneity
Dispersal of Matter
Energy Dispersal
Energy and Spontaneity

Opposing Dispersal Trends
Entropy: The Measure of Dispersal
Entropy and Dispersal of Matter
Entropy and Dispersal of Energy
Direction of Heat Flow
Entropies of Pure Substances
Minimization of Entropy
Absolute Entropies
Entropy and Concentration
Standard Reaction Entropies
Spontaneity and Free Energy
Free Energy and Temperature
Free Energy and Concentration
Influencing Spontaneity
Bioenergetics
Biochemical Energy Production
Coupled Reactions
Energy Efficiency

13. Kinetics: Mechanisms and Rates of Reactions

What is a Reaction Mechanism?
Example of a Mechanism: Formation of N_2O_4
Elementary Reactions
Alternative Mechanisms
Intermediates
Rate-Determining Step
Rates of Chemical Reactions
A Molecular View
A Macroscopic View: Concentration Changes
Concentration and Reaction Rates
Concentration Effects
Rate Laws
Mechanisms and Rate Laws
Rate Constants
Experimental Kinetics
First-Order Reactions
Second-Order Reactions
Zeroth-Order Reactions
Isolated Experiments
Initial Rates
Linking Mechanisms and Rate Laws
Rate-Determining Later Step
Equality of Rates

Rate of Reaction and the Equilibrium Constant
Reaction Rates and Temperature
Energy Changes in Unimolecular Reaction
Energy Changes in Bimolecular Reactions
Activation Energy
Activation Energy and Rate Constant
The Arrhenius Equation
Values of Activation Energy
Kinetics of $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ and $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ Reactions
Catalysis
Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Catalysts
Biocatalysis: Enzymes

17. Electron Transfer Reactions

Recognizing Redox Reactions
Oxidation Numbers
Balancing Redox Reactions
Half-Reactions
Galvanic Cells
Direct and Indirect Electron Transfers
Ion Transport
Electrodes
Shorthand Cell Notations
Cell Potentials
Standard Electrical Potential
Standard Cell Voltages
Conventions for Standard Reduction Potentials
Free Energy and Electrochemistry
Cell Potential and Free Energy
Cell Potentials and Chemical Equilibrium
Nernst Equation
The pH Meter
Electrochemical Stoichiometry
Redox in Action
Batteries
Corrosion
Electrolysis
Electrolysis of Water
Competitive Electrolysis
Electroplating

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September					
Ch 1 FSR	7	8	9 Classes Begin	10	11 <i>Practice Quiz Due 11:55 pm</i>
Ch 4, 5	14 <i>Quiz 1 Due 11:55 pm</i>	15 <i>Last day for add/drop/swap</i>	16	17	18
Ch 6, 7	21 <i>Quiz 2 Due 11:55 pm</i>	22	23	24 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #1 Due 11:55 pm</i>	25
Ch 8, 2	28 <i>Quiz 3 Due 11:55 pm</i>	29	30	1	2
October					
Ch 14	5 <i>Quiz 4 Due 11:55 pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #2 due 11:55 pm</i>	9
Review	12 Thanksgiving	13 <i>Quiz 5 Due 11:55 pm</i>	14	15	16 Test this week (date/time TBA)
Ch 15	19 <i>Quiz 6 Due 11:55 pm</i>	20	21	22 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #3 due 11:55 pm</i>	23
No Labs or Classes	26 Fall Break	27 Fall Break	28 Fall Break	29 Fall Break	30 Fall Break
November					
Ch 16	2 <i>Quiz 7 Due 11:55 pm</i>	3	4	5	6
Ch 3	9 <i>Quiz 8 Due 11:55 pm</i>	10	11	12 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #4 due 11:55 pm</i>	13
Ch 3, 12 <i>Last day to withdraw</i>	16 <i>Quiz 9 Due 11:55 pm</i>	17	18	19	20 Test this week (date/time TBA)
Ch 12, 13	23 <i>Quiz 10 Due 11:55 pm</i>	24	25	26 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #5 due 11:55 pm</i>	27
December					
Ch 13	30 <i>Quiz 11 Due 11:55 pm</i>	1	2	3	4
Ch 17	7 <i>Quiz 12 Due 11:55 pm</i>	8	9	10 <i>Mastering Chem. Assignment #6 due 11:55 pm</i>	11 Classes End