

Topics in Chemistry Syllabus (Spring 2004)

MWF (9:00 am – 9:50 am) MH 308

Course Title: *Topics in Chemistry*

Instructor: *Dr. Jeffry D. Madura (madura@duq.edu)*

Office: *Mellon Hall, Room 308/320*

Office Hours: *MTWTh 10:00 –11:00 a.m. or by appointment*

Textbook: **Various papers taken from the literature.**

Grading: Your grade for this course will be based on **several** quizzes, classroom performance, in-class presentations and a writing project. The weighting of each is given below

Quizzes	40%
Classroom Participation	20%
Writing Project	40%

Your final grade is based on the points that you earn and there is no pre-set fraction of the class that receives each letter grade. Experience has shown that a certain minimum performance is required to succeed in further work for which this course is a prerequisite. This level sets the passing grade, and the further you are above this level, the better your grade.

While individual exams may vary in relative difficulty, experience with our classes in the past has shown that averages in the sixty range will earn a student a grade of D, averages in the seventy range will earn a C, averages in the eighty range will earn a B, and averages above ninety will earn a grade of A.

The following formula can be used to determine your course average:

$$\% = \{ (\text{quizzes}) \cdot .4 + (\text{classroom performance}) \cdot .2 + (\text{writing project}) \cdot .4 \}$$

Quizzes: There will be several announced in class quizzes throughout the semester.

Writing Project: Since this class is a designated writing class you will be required to write two short descriptions about various chemistry topics. The style for these papers will follow the In Focus sections found in the General Chemistry textbook by Petrucci, Herring, and Harwood. You will be required to present your topics during the last two class days of this course at the end of the semester.

Disability: Any student with a qualified disability that requires accommodation, should inform the instructor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Tentative lecture schedule

	Topic
1	Electrochemistry
2	Kinetics
3	Atmospheric Chemistry
4	Protein Folding
5	Femtosecond Chemistry

I will follow this schedule as time and the class situation allows. Do realize, however, that occasionally it will take a bit longer than the schedule indicates for us to fully cover a particular topic. If this situation does arise, *you should still endeavor to keep up the reading assignments listed above.*