

This is an introductory course into the study of matter, its structure, properties, interactions and changes. Please read the following information carefully. This information will help you succeed in this class.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Office: Room 256

Webpage: [www.midwoodscience.org/spergel](http://www.midwoodscience.org/spergel)

Email: [spergel@midwoodscience.org](mailto:spergel@midwoodscience.org)

**SUPPLIES**

You are responsible for coming to class prepared every day. That includes bringing the following items:

- **Loose leaf binder**
- **Pen and #2 pencil with eraser**
- **Scientific calculator**
- **Chemistry Reference Tables**

**HOMEWORK**

Students are expected to attempt all homework problems and exercises. Homework will be checked by a variety of methods. I may check your notebook, I may collect it or I may ask you to come up to the blackboard to formally explain it. You can expect to be called up to the blackboard at any time.

Homework assignments will be collected from time to time and checked. All assignments should be complete and kept in your notebook. Each assignment should be labeled with unit number and homework number

The homework portion of your grade will be based on on-time completion of home and in class assignments.

**ABSENCES**

Please note that absence from class does not excuse you from homework. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the assignment. Make arrangements with someone else in the class to get the assignment. Please also note that you are required to bring a signed absence note when you return. This will be considered as part of your homework. **If you do not have a note, it will be considered as a missed homework and 1 point will be deducted from your homework average!**

**QUIZZES AND EXAMS**Quizzes

- Quizzes can be given at any time on any day of the week. You can expect to have several quizzes throughout the semester. They may or may not be announced in advance.
- Quizzes will typically consist of problems to be solved or other free response questions.
- There are no make-up quizzes. I will drop the equivalent of one 50 point quiz grade, so if you are absent on the day of a quiz, it will be the one dropped. Cutting class on the day of a quiz will result in a grade of zero. That grade will not be dropped.
- Quizzes can be worth anywhere from 5 to 50 points

## Exams

- Unit exams will be given on **Friday** - the designated test day for physical science. Each exam will be worth 100 points.
- Exams will generally consist of multiple-choice questions with answers to be placed on Scantron® answer sheets. These sheets require #2 pencils. Final answers must be circled or slashed in ink.
- Exams will be given at the end of a unit. There will be approximately 6 exams during the course of the term.
- Make-up exams are available only for students who are absent with well-documented extenuating circumstances. Make-ups must be taken on the day the student returns to school. It is the student's responsibility to remember to take the make-up.
- All students are expected to take the Regents Exam in June.

## **LABS**

- There is a lab component to this course. The New York State Education Department requires that students must complete a minimum of 1200 minutes of laboratory activity and submit acceptable laboratory reports for same in order to be allowed to sit for the Regents Exam in June. Students who do not fulfill this requirement will be barred from the exam.
- Labs meet every other week. Our labs are designated to take place on "A" weeks. There will be approximately 8 labs each semester. Students must complete at least 7 per semester or they will be barred from the Regents exam.
- Students must make every effort to attend lab. Students who arrive late will be admitted to class but will not be allowed to work on the activity and will not receive credit for the lab. **Due to the Regents Exam Schedule this year, there will be VERY LIMITED opportunities to make up Labs at the end of the semester!!**
- Lab reports are required to receive credit for the lab. Reports handed in after the due date will be penalized a minimum of 10 points. Penalties will begin on the day after the due date and increase thereafter. **Late reports will not be accepted once graded reports are returned to the class.**

## **GRADES**

Grades are determined by the following formula:

Quiz and exam average (Percentage of total points earned / total available points)	75%
Lab reports	15%
Homework and in-class assignments	10%

**The score from the New York State Regents Exam will count as two exams (200 points) in determining the final grade for the Spring Semester.**

### **Class preparedness requirements:**

It is essential that you come to class every day prepared to work. If you are unprepared, for example, missing homework or forgetting your calculator or other piece of equipment, you are hurting yourself and holding back the rest of the class. If, at any time throughout the course, you are unprepared, you can have points deducted from your average or lose homework credits. Points can also be lost for various infractions of school policy including but not limited to things that disrupt the class, for example using cell phones or eating in class. These points will be deducted from your overall average before determining your final grade!!

**Note that grading is cumulative throughout the term!!! Grades given for the first and second modules are progress indicators and are components of the final grade given at the end of the term.**

**No extra credit projects will be given.**