

The Global Reach of Science

Bringing Global Humanities to General Chemistry

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Chemistry - R

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Why Chemistry?

Students in CHEM 131 tend to be narrowly focused on STEM fields or Pre-Med/Nursing. There are frequently International students, but seemingly at rates lower than the overall population of the College.

There is very little opportunity in any of their classes to take a “big picture” look at the responsibilities they may have in a future career as a scientist. Global Humanities content, especially in an introductory course, can guide the rest of their studies.

Why not Chemistry?

CHEM 131 is a lot of work for the students (6 credits including the mandatory laboratory) and is very content-heavy:

- Analyze and solve various problems that include a combination of concepts from various chapters
- Apply chemical principles to explain results
- Calculate the magnitude and direction of heat flow for physical and chemical changes
- Demonstrate proper waste disposal
- Describe the chemical bonding between atoms on the basis of atomic structure
- Describe the major components of the atom and their location in the atom.
- Determine solution concentrations and calculate the amounts of materials involved in solution reactions
- Do mole and stoichiometry calculations
- Identify chemical and physical properties
- Locate safety equipment and work safely in the laboratory
- Make observations, collect and interpret data, and do calculations
- Name and write symbols for elements, ions, and compounds
- Predict the qualitative behavior of gases, liquids, solids, and solutions
- Predict the quantitative behavior of gases and solutions
- Predict the types of intramolecular forces within a substance and intermolecular forces between substances and in solution
- Successfully use chemistry laboratory techniques such as filtration, collection of gases, precipitation, weighing, and titration
- Use dimensional analysis as a technique for solving problems and report the answer with the appropriate number of significant figures
- Use the Periodic table to predict relative properties of elements and formulas of compounds, formula masses, electron configuration, and periodic trends
- Use types of chemical bonding and Lewis dot structures to predict the geometry, polarity, and properties of compounds
- Write balanced molecular, ionic, and net ionic equations and predict the products of various types of reactions.

Where does it fit?

(Some) discussion sections (25-50 min/week)

Week 1	Haber	Week 9	<i>Thermochemistry</i>
Week 2	<i>Dimensional Analysis</i>	Week 10	Heating the atmosphere
Week 3	<i>Nomenclature</i>	Week 11	<i>Exam</i>
Week 4	<i>Exam</i>	Week 12	Hydrogen economy
Week 5	<i>Study Skills</i>	Week 13	Everything Change
Week 6	Carbon tax	Week 14	<i>Exam</i>
Week 7	<i>Exam</i>	Week 15	Innovations Lab
Week 8	Carbon emissions		

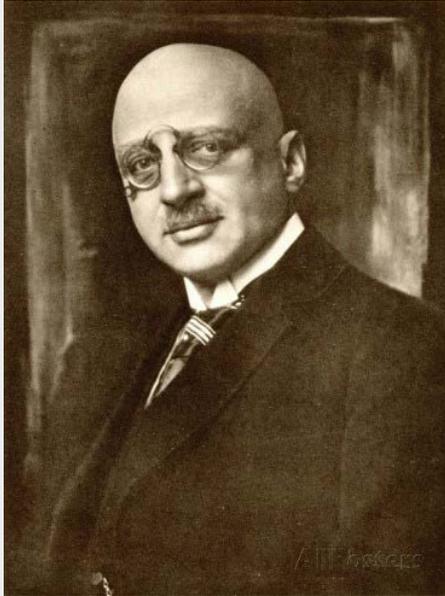
Global Humanities Integration

Global content will replace in-class worksheets currently used to reinforce lecture material. New worksheets will fit around a theme of Global Climate Change, and will include reflection questions on their responsibilities as scientists, with class discussions.

- Example calculation: The average annual energy use for a single family home in the United States is 10,399 kWh. The heat of formation of carbon dioxide is -393.5 kJ/mol . Assuming a power plant efficiency of 20%, what mass of CO_2 is produced by the average single family home in a year?
- Example reflection: Given the global emissions of CO_2 , do you think that an American household has a greater or lesser carbon footprint than the global average? In what ways can our energy use affect those in other nations?

Example Global Humanities Assignment

Includes *Haber* short film



Viewing of short biopic *Haber*, about the “father of chemical warfare.”

- Example discussion question: An actual quote that the film used is: "During peace time a scientist belongs to the World, but during war time he belongs to his country." What do you suppose he means by this? Does the quote mean something different to you? Are there global consequences to belonging to only a single country?

Global Humanities Learning Objectives

Upon completing this internationalized module, students will be able to:

- Identify global effects of carbon emissions.
- Appraise one's own actions in the context of global climate change.
- Evaluate the responsibilities of scientists in a global society.

Thank you

- Thank you all for your time and attention.
- Thank you to the MVOC Fellows for the excellent discussions, insight, and advice.
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