

Course Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change according to the needs of the class.

Week	Topic
T 9/6 - F 9/9	TA Orientation
^a M 9/12 - F 9/16	Safety/Check-In/Chem21 Login
M 9/19 - F 9/23	Dimensional Analysis
M 9/26 - F 9/30	Density (must have personal lock)
M 10/3 - F 10/7	Density Lab Practical
M 10/10 - F 10/14	No Lab
M 10/17 - F 10/21	Acid-Base Titration
M 10/24 - F 10/28	AB Titration Practical
^b M 10/31 - F 11/4	Chromatography
M 11/7 - F 11/11	Calorimetry
M 11/14 - F 11/18	Cu Analysis
M 11/21 - 11/25	No Lab (Thanksgiving Break)
M 11/28 - F 12/2	Lab Practical
M 12/5 - F 12/9	Checkout
M 12/6 - W 12/14	No Lab

^a – Last Day to Drop without a W is 9/15/22

^b – Last Day to Drop with a W is 10/31/22

We've all got responsibilities outside of this course. It may be jobs, caretaking responsibilities, other courses, legal issues, or things I've never considered. I will do my best to be as *reasonably* accommodating as possible but that requires communication. I never ask for details but if something serious is happening, I can try to connect the resources to you instead of you having to find them on your own.

Chem 113 Syllabus - One Page Version

Hello!

I'm Dr. Sobers (SOH-burrs). Email: cj.sobers@rutgers.edu. You will be assigned to a TA & Head TA for the semester. They will be your primary contact for the course for everything except grades.

Yo Teach! (aka Communication)

FYI – When initially emailing instructors, the safest/most respectful option is Prof. [Last Name]. They will either state a preference or you can use how they sign off the email for future communications.

I will respond directly or indirectly (via TA) to any message I receive before 1600 on weekdays. I am with my family 1600-1900 weekdays and all day on weekends; I'm sleeping 2200-0600(ish). It is highly unlikely I will respond during family or sleeping time.

How do I get an A?

The goal of Chem 113 is to master lab techniques so you can do more complicated experiments in the future. However, we will also be asking you to “think like a scientist” and engage in a Claim, Evidence, Reasoning process. Most importantly, lab is an active learning environment. You cannot get an A by watching others. An A requires enough points on the various assessments (labs, safety, cleanup, and checkout) to have more than 890 points total.

What if I miss lab?

Due to public health emergencies, it's very likely you, or someone you live with, may get sick during the semester. Whether it's with COVID, the flu, or something else...don't bring it to lab. How will I work with you? You get to drop your 2 lowest labs, no reason needed. If you don't miss any, your lowest 2 are still dropped. Seriously, DO NOT COME TO LAB SICK.

Canvas?

Canvas is where FAQs, announcements, and videos/transcripts will be uploaded. We will import grades into Canvas at least twice during the semester but you can always check on Chem21.

Anything Else?

- At most, grades are a marker of your level of understanding at *this point in time*.
- Learning is never passive, especially in lab. Watching something is one step. You need to try.
- There are prelab assignments due BEFORE you enter lab and a 10 minute quiz after the first 5 minutes of lab. Don't lose easy points by ignoring these.
- Grading will start after Fri section finishes the lab.
- Your voice is important. If something doesn't make sense or you're feeling overwhelmed, please tell a TA or myself. I can adjust the course as needed.
- I will try my best to be transparent but I am also human. Do not wait until the last minute to ask for help

Syllabus – The Full Version

Chem 113 – General Chemistry Lab I (21:160:113)

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – Newark Campus

Fall 2021

About this syllabus: This syllabus contains facts and asides about my teaching philosophy. Anything highlighted in green relates to my stance on growth mindset, diversity/equity/inclusion, the importance of care from both students and instructor/TAs, and that we all exist outside of this class. I will make mistakes and I encourage criticism & feedback to make your experience more welcoming.

Instructor:

Dr. Courtney Sobers Swindell (please refer to me as Dr. Sobers, pronounced soh-burrs, she/her)

Contact Info: cj.sobers@rutgers.edu or via Canvas Mail

Student “Chat With Me” Hours by Zoom: Mondays at 1930-2030 and by appointment

You will be assigned a TA. The TA will help by answering questions (not giving answers), guiding through troubleshooting, discussing study approaches, and convey concerns to the instructor (keeping anonymity when possible).

You will also be assigned a Head TA. This person is there to support the TAs but may help you as needed. You can also approach them to ask questions. They have taught this course at least once.

I'm a first-generation American (family is from the West Indies). I have taught at community colleges, private universities, and public universities. Lab was never my favorite class, but there are valuable skills beyond the technical that are best learned in the lab environment.

Meeting Times:

Day	Time	Day (section)	Time
Monday (section 01)	0830 - 1120	Monday (section 07)	1300 - 1550
Tuesday (section 02)		Tuesday (section 06)	
Wednesday (section 03)			
Thursday (section 04)			
Friday (section 05)			

Materials:

- Safety glasses or goggles (purchase online or pick up from stockroom - you only get one for free)
- Mask (I suggest having more than 1)
- Lock for equipment lockers (You will not be allowed to conduct any experiments after 9/23 without a personal lock)
- Non-graphing calculator
- Access to Chem21Labs (There are in lab computers but it can be accessed on laptops, tablets, and mobile devices. There is a \$10 charge for continued access that you can pay directly via card or through the bookstore for ~\$13)
- Pen and Notebook
- Long sleeved lab coat (purchase online or pick up from stockroom - you only get one for free)
- Access to Canvas (canvas.rutgers.edu) – announcements will be posted here
- Rutgers email – CHECK THIS REGULARLY

Course Description:

This is a companion course to General Chemistry I (21:150:115) for science majors. It is ok to not be perfect in this course. While the course is meant to align with the lecture course, we will review any important concepts before you do any experimentation.

Grading:

Interpreting chemistry is a skill and there are resources, not limited to your TA, available to help you with everything from how to approach problems and how to organize your reference notes for quizzes/assignments.

The course is difficult to fail but you do have to demonstrate a deeper understanding in order to end the course with an A.

Your grade is a SUM of points not an average. You will be failing until you've completed about half the labs. It's ok. I promise. THERE IS NO D OFFERED IN THIS COURSE.

	Maximum Points	Grading Scale
Experiments	$100 * 8$ (drop 2) = 600	A: 890-1000 B+: 830-889 B: 780-829 C+: 730-779 C: 570-729 F: 0-569
Safety & Clean Up	$20 * 8$ (drop 2) + 30 (clean-up day) = 150	
Check In/Out	$50 * 2 = 100$	
Combined Practical	150	

Announcements:

There will be regular announcements posted to Canvas and forwarded to your Rutgers email address. These announcements may contain information about the assessments, schedule changes, and other course details you should be aware of. You are responsible for reading all announcements and being familiar with the content.

When you have a question outside of class . . .

- check syllabus •
- check announcements •
- check email •
- ask a classmate •
- ask your professor!

Late/Missed/Revised Work:

You may still be mentally exhausted from the past 2+ years so sometimes, things get forgotten. If you find yourself disappointed with your grades, please reach out to the TA or myself so we can try to help you figure out a way to perform at the level you expect.

If you need to miss lab, **no excuse or note is required**. Your lowest 2 grades are dropped. Several (4+) missed labs usually mean there's something bigger happening. I will connect you with the CARE team and you will be encouraged to contact your advisor or the Dean of Students for assistance.

Late work is not accepted as it delays our ability to grade in a timely manner. Aim to finish all work during the lab period.

Assessments:

Prelabs

Some labs will have prelab assignments that are due before the start of your lab period. It will be listed in the weekly announcement. The prelabs are meant to familiarize you with specifics of the experiment or the calculations you'll be expected to do. They include video walkthroughs. We strongly encourage you to write out how you solve the problems so you can refer back to it during lab. **You can work on these with your TAs.**

In Lab Quizzes

Every lab will start with a 10 minute 2-3 question quiz worth 10 points that starts 5 minutes after class starts. If you arrive after the quiz period has ended, you will be given a blank quiz in order to receive any equipment from the stockroom but it will not be graded. The quiz primarily focuses on procedure or lab concepts. Occasionally, it will ask for a calculation but you will be told beforehand.

Lab Practicals

You will have 3 lab practicals. There is no prelab or prelab quiz for lab practicals. These labs must be completed by either the end of the lab or by the end of the announced time. The first two are similar to a previous lab. They count as regular labs meaning they can be dropped if needed.

The final practical covers several techniques taught throughout the semester. You will have 70 minutes to complete an experiment under TA observation. You cannot earn an A without attending the final practical but it is optional.

Lab “Reports”

All lab reports will be submitted in Chem21 (chem21labs.com) within 24 hours of the end of your lab period. All calculations will be automatically graded (you have 3 attempts). Your experimental accuracy will be evaluated as well. Occasionally you will be asked to answer an open ended question. All labs, except dimensional analysis and copper analysis, are done independently. You may discuss the labs with your classmates but you must conduct your own experiments. Your lowest 2 lab grades will be dropped regardless of reason.

Safety & Cleanup

Every lab you will be evaluated on your safety which includes, but is not limited to: keeping proper PPE (lab glasses, lab coat, mask), proper attire (ankle length leggings, pants, or skirt, long hair tied up or head scarves pinned back/tucked into lab coat, NO CROCS), lab hygiene/safety (no headphones, clean bench space, no left behind equipment, capped bottles), etc. You will receive at most 3 reminders before losing all safety points for the day. The lowest 2 safety point grades will be dropped. You will also sign up for or be assigned a cleanup day where you and some classmates are responsible for cleaning ALL lab rooms (101, 105, and balance room).

NOTE: Failure to wear your mask during lab may result in a 0 for the lab and safety. Please bring extras. Fabric first aid tape will help prevent fogging up. We recommend using string, rubber bands, tape, etc to help hold the safety glasses on your face.

Checkout

You must complete lab checkout at the end of the semester. Lab hygiene is important and making sure you clean up your mess before the next student needs to use the equipment is a big deal.

Advice/FYIs

- Speak up. I can't help you if I don't know what's happening. If I made a mistake, point it out. If it's too much, say that. If you don't understand, ask a question. We want you to talk to us. The more you interact, the better for you and the entire class.
- **The TAs are not there to do the assignments for you. I expect everyone to do things in their own way, not just mimic the TA.** This class is about exploring chemistry, so lean into mistakes.
- Use your classmates and discuss the assignments. Discussion and defense of ideas is where learning happens.
- Tutoring is offered through the Learning Center. Details can be found at: <http://lc.newark.rutgers.edu/tutoring.php> or by visiting Bradley Hall, Rm 140 (110 Warren St., Newark, NJ 07102) or by calling 973-353-5608.

Academic Integrity:

All work is open book/notes/internet HOWEVER your answers should be in your own words with your own explanations. **Each student should submit their own work including, but not limited to, data and uploaded content. Submitting identical work to another student, faking attendance, etc is a violation of the academic integrity policy.** Academic integrity, as defined by the University Code of Student Conduct, requires that students:

- 1) Make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration.
- 2) Obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions
- 3) Treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.

Any academic integrity violations will result in a failing grade for the assignment/work on which the violation occurred that cannot be dropped when calculating the final course grade. Additional violations will result in a failing grade for the course. All violations will be reported to the Academic Integrity Facilitators/Academic Integrity Office.

You are more than capable of completing the work in this course and doing well. If you find yourself deciding whether or not to submit someone else's work or lying about submitted work, please reach out to myself or the TA so we can try to work with your circumstances to avoid such an incident.

Mask Policy

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. Accommodations do not compromise the academic integrity of the course and are a tool of equity and inclusion in a field that struggles with that. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

Disabilities:

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability, some of which are invisible (mental health, learning disabilities, etc.). The Letter of Accommodations must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Website: ods.rutgers.edu

Phone: (973)353-5375

Email: ods@newark.rutgers.edu

Pregnancy:

The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy.

Phone: (973) 353-1906

Email: TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu

Absence Verification:

The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 for information about expectations and responsibilities.

Phone: (973) 353-5063

Email: deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu

Temporary conditions/injuries:

The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery).

Website: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>

English as a Second Language (ESL):

The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL)

Email: PALS@newark.rutgers.edu

Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:

The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking.

Reporting: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm.

More Info: <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

Interpersonal violence:

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does **not** have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Phone: (973) 353-1918

Text: (973) 339-0734

Email: run.vpva@rutgers.edu

Crisis and Concerns:

The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance.

Website: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE

Email: careteam@rutgers.edu.

Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being:

The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students.

Email: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

Emergency Aid Funds

If you run into unexpected, sudden hardship, you may be eligible for an emergency grant from the University to cover expenses etc.

Website: <https://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu/support-students/donate-to-student-affairs/emergency-assistance>

pantryRUN

Website: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/node/226>

Email: pantry_run@newark.rutgers.edu

Phone: (973) 353-5231