General Chemistry Grading Policies

1. Significant Figures: Reporting answers to the incorrect number of significant figures will result in lost points. For trailing zeroes we will follow the guidelines given in Appendix A of the Chemistry 1A Lab Manual; if trailing zeroes are given and the number contains a decimal point, they will be considered significant. For example, if a number is written as 5100.0 then it has 5 significant figures. In cases with trailing zeroes, but no decimal point you must convert the number into scientific notation to clearly show the number of significant figures. So, if the number 5100 has 4 significant figures write it as $5.100 \times 10^3$. But if, for instance, it has only 2 significant figures write it as $5.1 \times 10^3$.

2. Units are required in both the set-up and result of a calculation. Leaving units off in either place will result in lost points.

3. In the sciences it is crucial that we are clear, organized and complete in written work in order to relay information correctly. Therefore, for questions requiring an explanation the answer must be clear, organized and complete to receive full credit. Just because this is a science class and not an English class does not excuse answers that are not clearly written. If an answer is not clearly written or I need to imply or “read between the lines” points will be deducted.

4. If there is a question about the grading, students can POLITELY bring their concerns to the instructor. If there is a legitimate problem or mistake made in the grading, the score will be corrected. Badgering of or rude behavior toward an instructor to get more points will not be tolerated.

5. Prelab assignments: Prelab assignments when given are due no later than 5 minutes after the start of lab lecture. They WILL NOT be accepted if handed in any later than this, even if you are late coming to class.