

CHM199H1 S

The Context of Chemistry: Origins, Concepts, Tools, and Challenges

Winter 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

CHM199H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Wednesday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	In Person: WI 523

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Instructor: Professor Ronald Kluger

Email: r.kluger@utoronto.ca

Phone: 4169783582

Office Hours and Location: MW 11:00-13:00 DB 444, near Chemistry Library

Additional Notes: office visit preferably by email notification in advance

Course Overview

Chemistry is a practical as well as a conceptual science that serves as the basis for applications in many other fields. The ideas and methods have evolved from diverse inputs leading to widely accepted sets of standard of facts. This collective knowledge has led to progress in the quality and understanding of life at a molecular level. While the facts of chemistry are taught in established courses, the context of what we know, the limitations and challenges of what chemistry can do and how we got to this point will be the targets for discovery by students in this course. The course will operate in a seminar model, combining presentations, readings, reports and discussions of current and historical issues. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Chemistry is a practical as well as a conceptual science that serves as the basis for applications in many other fields. The ideas and methods have evolved from diverse inputs leading to widely accepted sets of standard of facts. This collective knowledge has led to progress in the quality and understanding of life at a molecular level. While the facts of chemistry are taught in established courses, the context of what we know, the limitations and challenges of what chemistry can do and how we got to this point will be the targets for discovery by students in this course. The course will operate in a seminar model, combining presentations, readings, reports and discussions of current and historical issues. Students will learn the background of important

concepts and events in the development of the modern field. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will learn about the origins and areas of current chemistry and its precursors.

Students will learn how to present their work and ideas in several modes, using blackboards and computers. Paying attention to other students' presentations is important as is attendance, both of which will count heavily toward their grade.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: None

Recommended Preparation: Grade 12 level chemistry

Credit Value: 0.5

Concurrent enrolment in a chemistry course will help with gaining perspective.

Course Materials

The Chemistry Book by Derke Lowe is essential reading for the course. It is a good value and is very well written. It is impossible to do the assignments without access to this book.

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Presentations	40%	Individuals and teams will present assigned topics that extend from content in The Chemistry Book.	No Specific Date
Written assignments	50%	Two written assignments will extend from classroom information.	No Specific Date

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Failing to submit an assignment on the due date will not be possible and a grade of zero on that assignment will result.

Policies & Statements

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Late/Missed Assignments

This item is listed here to remind you to include your late/missed assignment policy; if you have late penalties, you are required to publish them in your syllabus. Please see the [A&S Academic Handbook \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook) sections on missed term work (Section 4.7), late term work and extensions (section 4.8), and missed term tests (Section 5.3) for more information.

Attendance

This item is listed here to remind you that you may wish to include your attendance policy, if you have one, in your syllabus. For more information, see Section 3.1 in the [A&S Academic Handbook \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook#CourseClassroomProcedures\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook#CourseClassroomProcedures).