

School of Chemistry – Unit Survey Feedback

Semester One 2014/15

LEVEL 1 COURSE UNITS

Unit Code: CHEM10021		
Unit Title: Chemistry for Bioscientists		
Unit co-ordinator: Lu Shin Wong		
No of students taking unit: 221		
Other teaching staff: Gareth Law, Klaus Muller-Dethlefs		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	44% (97/221)	3.75
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	44% (97/221)	3.4
This unit was well organised	44% (97/221)	4.08
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	44% (97/221)	3.75
Feedback on student comments:		
<p>Overall, the students appeared to be satisfied with the delivery of the unit in all categories. Of these, the lowest (although still positive) was in the helpfulness of feedback.</p>		
<p>In this regard, we would like to reiterate that opportunities for the students to test their understanding and to get feedback is provided in the form of: (a) workshops, with model answers provided afterwards; (b) on-line quizzes, with model answers and explanations provided afterwards; (c) PASS sessions mentored by more senior students. In addition, all staff are available to meet to discuss the taught material. Nevertheless, we acknowledge there is always room for improvement. In future years, we will improve the feedback aspect by providing the PASS leaders with more guidance information, including copies of the lecture notes, so they can more clearly provide detailed explanations. In regards to the feedback for quizzes on Blackboard, the system currently does not support providing feedback on a question-by-question basis. Thus we have instead elected to provide the explanations either at the end of the quiz or separately.</p>		
<p>A few students commented on the linearity in which material was covered in the lectures. We strive to streamline our delivery and incremental improvements are made every year. There were some changes to the syllabus of the unit this year compared to the last, so improvements will be made for future in particular in regards to the physical chemistry component. However, since the unit as a</p>		

whole makes heavy use of chemical structures and diagrams, the space constraints on the notes mean that it is not always possible, or desirable, to go through them in a strictly linear fashion.

A few students suggested “revision” lectures but this was discounted on the basis that: (a) it would require the sacrifice of a workshop to accommodate it into the timetable but a large number of students liked having the workshops as a means of testing their knowledge and asking questions, (b) Gareth Law already provides revision podcasts, (c) all lecturers are available to meet with students if they need to discuss the taught material.

Unit Code: CHEM10101		
Unit Title: Intoroductory Chemistry		
Unit co-ordinator: Tim Wallace		
No of students taking unit: 224		
Other teaching staff: Alan Brisdon, Andrew Regan, Mike Anderson		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	35% (79/224)	4.16
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	35% (79/224)	3.97
This unit was well organised	35% (79/224)	4.42
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	35% (79/224)	4.23
<i>Please summarise the main themes from students' comments:</i>		
<p>The respondents were, for the most part, appreciative of the role of this introductory course as a common starting point for future studies, and of the diverse methods that the various lecturers use for presenting their component of the course. The lectures, workshops, printed materials and online support all received favourable comments.</p> <p>There were some comments about other aspects of delivery that might be scrutinised, namely more references to the exam and how to approach it, and the possibility of each lecturer's PowerPoint being made available on Blackboard.</p> <p>The survey returns are consistent with the overall satisfaction of the respondents.</p>		
<i>Feedback on comments received:</i>		
<p>The detailed and largely favourable comments on the syllabus, lectures, workshops, printed materials and online support are much appreciated.</p> <p>Adding lecture 'podcasts' and PowerPoint slides to Blackboard are optional for each lecturer, but rest assured that the possible benefits of these practices are carefully assessed on a regular basis.</p>		