

Chem 103/104 Course Web Site
Dr. Robert L. Carter

Where's the web site?

The web site for my Chem 103 and Chem 104 courses can be found through the Chemistry Department's home page at www.chem.umb.edu. From there, click on "Class Resources," and at the bottom of the page, under "Course Websites," click on "CH 103/104". At the page "General Chemistry at UMass Boston" either click on "CH103 - Section 1" or "CH104 - Section 1", or scroll down to the bottom of the page. If you don't mind typing, the direct URL is www.chem.umb.edu/chemistry/genchem/. Either way, you'll probably want to bookmark the link on your browser.

I don't have a computer or internet access. What do I do?

The University has zillions of public-access computers, most of which are connected to the internet. As a registered student, you can use any one of these to gain access to the course web sites. Contact Computing Services for details.

How do I view the materials?

All materials on these course web sites are in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, which requires that your computer have the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed. This is a free download from Adobe's web site, which you can reach via a click on the "General Chemistry at UMass Boston" page. All the University's internet connected computers already have Acrobat Reader.

What kind of computer do I need?

Either a PC or a Mac with Adobe Acrobat Reader will let you use the files. The PDF format is not machine specific.

Can I print the materials?

Yes. You may make as many copies of the posted materials as you need for your personal use in conjunction with your studies in Chem 103 or Chem 104 or on behalf of any student enrolled in these courses. All materials are copyright, Robert L. Carter and/or the Department of Chemistry at UMass Boston, 1999-2002, and may not be copied for resale or distribution beyond the University of Massachusetts Boston without prior permission.

What's available on the course web site?

Documents are grouped under the following categories: Information, Assignments, Handouts, Overheads, Homework Solutions, Laboratory Manual, More Than You Need to Know.

What's under Information?

The initial handout on the course procedures and policies, the syllabus, this information sheet on the web site, how to use the OWL system, and any other general information will be posted here. This is where sample tests and test study guides will be posted, as well as keys to the exams after they have been given and class results. There is also a color-coded calendar for the course, which you should download and print.

What's under Assignments?

Copies of each weekly homework assignment, to be reviewed in discussion section meetings, will be posted here. I have discontinued my past practice of distributing printed assignments each week, so the web site is the only source to obtain a copy of each assignment. Be sure to check the web site each week for the current assignment.

What's under Handouts?

Here you will find copies of materials that summarize various topics in the course. In some cases these are fact sheets of material to be memorized, and in others they are guidelines for certain procedures. Again, I have discontinued my past practice of distributing printed copies of these materials, so the web site is the only source for them. All handouts are currently posted.

What's under Overheads?

I routinely use projected overheads, using Acrobat, as part of my lectures, in addition to hand-written notes that are also projected. All the overheads presented in class will eventually appear under this category. (My hand-written class notes are not posted.) Since I am constantly revising these, you may find that an overhead used in class is different from or in addition to those that may be on the web site before class. In such cases, I will post the new material as soon as possible.

What's under Homework Solutions?

Here you will find PDF versions of my own hand-written solutions to the assigned problems. Use these only after you have attempted to solve the assigned problems on your own. It is very easy to fool yourself into thinking that you understand the material by going over someone else's solutions. It is an entirely different matter for *you* to do it without coaching, which after all is the way you'll have to do it on a test.

What's under Laboratory Manual?

Here you will find PDF files of the individual laboratory experimental write-ups. The correct laboratory schedule (which sometimes needs to be revised, due to unforeseen circumstances) will always be available here. I would advise against printing out the entire laboratory manual from the web site, because PDF files are very often slow to print. The cost of buying the manual in the Copy Store is minimal and worth avoiding the aggravation. However, if you forget your manual on laboratory day, or want an extra copy of some experiment, the files on the site will make it possible for you to have a copy when you need it.

What's under More Than You Need to Know?

As the name suggests, these are short descriptions of topics beyond what you are required to know for tests. Sometimes in a course at this level we must gloss over the details of a topic or the derivations of certain equations. If you are curious about learning a little more on a topic or understanding how a certain result or equation came about, check out the few postings in this subheading.

Are there any bugs with these files?

Sure! The most common problem encountered with using PDF documents comes from missing fonts. If your computer does not have the same special fonts that I used in creating some of these documents, you may see strange nonsensical substitutes. Most of the documents were created with Corel WordPerfect. If you don't use this, you probably don't have the special symbol fonts in their WP Fonts X set; e.g., WP Math A, WP Math B, WP Greek Helve, etc. All the University's computers should have the necessary fonts. If you're having problems reading things *and* you have a PC (not a Mac), bring me a floppy disk and I can give you the necessary fonts to install on your machine. Alternately, go to Corel's web site at www.corel.com and try downloading the font set for WordPerfect 2000 or 2002. In either case, install the font set in your computer's font directory, using the procedures that are described in Window's Help. As a test, if you are reading this from the web site, the following symbols might give you trouble, in which case you should install the WP Fonts set:

→ (short arrow), Δ (capital delta), ν (lower case nu), π (lower case pi), σ (lower case sigma)