

*Dr. Ron Robertson* Office: C303 Sundquist  
Office Phone: 221-6298  
Home Phone: 615-763-2146 E-mail [robertsonr@apsu.edu](mailto:robertsonr@apsu.edu)  
Web and Discussion Board [www.apsu.edu/robertsonr](http://www.apsu.edu/robertsonr)  
Office hours posted but you are welcome to come by anytime

1. *Catalog Course Description.* 1 credit hour. This is the lab to accompany Chem 3620 - Physical Chemistry. Experiments will involve polymers, electrochemistry, viscosity, and spectroscopy.

This course emphasizes the general education core areas of reasoning, numerical understanding, and scientific knowledge and is a part of the university's mission to develop: (1) skills of inquiry, abstract and logical thinking, and critical analysis; (2) the ability to understand and use numbers and statistics; and (3) an understanding of the scientific method.

2. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 3610, 361L
3. *Lab Time:* 2:30 – 5:15 pm, Wednesday, E303 and C306 Sundquist
4. *Lab Manual:* There is no lab manual text. All labs are posted at our class web page, a link from my home page of <http://www.apsu.edu/robertsonr/>. You are responsible for printing these labs before each class. Additional handouts will be given for some experiments in class, and there is reference material on reserve in the Chem Dept. Library that may help in writing some of the lab reports..
5. *Grading Policy:* 7 Write-Ups 50 points each  
Daily grades: worksheet/ about 60 points  
notebook/field trip
6. My general philosophy is “A grade is an inadequate report of an inaccurate judgment by a biased and variable judge of the extent to which a student has attained an undefined level of mastery of an unknown proportion of an indefinite material” (Paul Dressel) Grades are not perfect or always fair, but I will pledge to be consistent. I want to work with you so that you can do your best within your limitations and opportunities. I urge you to do all you can in the time you have with what you have in the place you are. Your grade in lecture will be the same as lab and will be derived 70% from lecture and 30% from lab.

If you have a condition that may affect your academic performance, I encourage you to make an appointment with me or with the coordinator of disability issues (telephone 648-6230; tty 221-6278; fax 221-7102) in order to discuss this matter.

7. *Goals:* Physical Chemistry is a course in which we experiment in order to determine underlying principles which determine the properties of substances. The experiments are designed to acquaint you with some of the lab skills that are necessary and also the analytical skills that are needed. You will continue your development of lab technique, statistical analysis, and technical writing.
8. *Attendance is required.* “You must be present to win.” It may or may not be possible to make up a lab. It will depend on the lab and on the reason for absence. If at all possible contact me in advance. Usually you will not be able to submit a report for a lab you miss, but you may be allowed to submit a report on a lab you did not attend if you have special circumstances (such as an absence related to official representation of the university) approved by the instructor.
9. *Drop/Withdrawal Dates:*
- |                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Drop Without Record                | January 29 |
| Automatic W                        | Feb. 27    |
| W,F, FA (discretion of instructor) | April 6    |
10. *Safety Protocol:* You must wear approved safety goggles at all times while in the laboratory. Goggles may be purchased at the bookstore or in local stores. The safety regulations are the same as those in all APSU chemistry courses and are explained on an additional handout. If you have not received a copy previously or have lost your copy, download a copy from the following web page under “Safety”, [http://www.apsu.edu/chem\\_page/RESOURCE.HTM](http://www.apsu.edu/chem_page/RESOURCE.HTM).

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. Students must read the “Code of Student Conduct” in the new Student Handbook for an understanding of what will be expected of them within the academic setting.

University policy concerning minors - Minors (any non-student under the age of 18) accompanying staff, faculty, students, or visitors on campus are not permitted in the classroom.

11. *Laboratory Notebook.* Each student is required to keep an informal notebook and to turn in a formal write-up for each experiment.

The **informal notebook** must be a bound notebook and is used to record raw data and observations during the laboratory period. I will check this notebook informally during the semester and at the end of the semester for daily grades. All entries in the informal notebook should be in ink. Draw a single line through a mistake; do not erase or use white-out. Pages may not be torn out of your notebook. If you wish to delete a page, draw one slash line through the page.

Put the date on the first page for each experimental entry. Below the title of the experiment, identify your lab partner or partners. Next give the purpose of the experiment with any necessary and important chemical equations or mathematical equations. Feel

free to elaborate on more background information. For the procedure you can reference the handout as you would in a report. If you deviate from this procedure or if part of the lab is to develop the procedure, this must be explained in detail. Finally record all your data, observations and any brief conclusions. Data must be recorded in a neat, coherent, and concise manner. All data should be recorded in table format which allows easy review of the work performed. The tables may sometimes be constructed before the experiment begins. This will allow you to simply "fill in the blanks" as the experiment is performed. You will be able to sort through your data quickly if it is clearly labeled. Any important details which may affect the data should be recorded.

a. *Cover of the notebook.*

Use a label and write legibly on the cover the following:

Name  
Course Name  
Term/Year

b. *Table of Contents.*

The first page of your notebook should be reserved for a Table of Contents which begins on page one. All experiments must be recorded. Entries should be made in a columnized format as shown in the following example.

Table of Contents		
Experiment	Page	Date
Polymer Elasticity	2	

12. *The formal lab report.* The report is the actual write-up which will be graded. All write-ups must be typed or word-processed and double spaced. Data should be reported in table format. Chemical structures, equations, and sample calculations should be word processed. All pages must be numbered in the upper right corner, and do not write on the back pages of the formal write-up.

*Protocol for the formal laboratory report.*

a. *Experimental Entries.*

Each experiment should include the following items:

Experiment Number, Title, Date  
Introduction/Objective  
Procedure  
Results (tabulated form of all recorded data with calculations)  
Discussion  
References  
Comments

b. *Further information for experimental entries*

i. Example for title, etc:

E1	Polymer Elasticity	1-24-07
(experiment 1)	(title of experiment)	(date of experimentation)

- ii. The **introduction** should include the theory and principles pertaining to the experiment. References to previous work (if known) and pertinent chemical information concerning the experiment should also be included. It may be necessary to use chemical equations or structures. The introduction should end by leading into the objective or purpose of the experiment which may be summarized in two or three sentences. Do not discuss results in this section or use pronouns.
- iii. The **procedure** as you performed the experiment. You are telling someone else what you did and why you did it, thus there should be a rationale for your procedure. This is usually referred to as the overview. You have the option of including this overview in the introduction, but the procedure must be explained and not just listed. Do not copy the procedure word for word from the handout; it is written in another style. Please write in complete sentences, and do not use pronouns. The procedure is the only section that must be written in past tense of passive voice. Please include a diagram of the apparatus used. Include in your write-up names and model numbers of important instruments used.
- iv. **Results** should be presented in table format. All data must be reported because it is unethical to fail to report all scientific data. It is a good idea to separate the raw data from the calculated data in the results section. If you wish to leave out an experimental trial when computing statistical information, a "Q test" or other appropriate statistical test must be performed and recorded in order to legitimately ignore the data. On many experiments you will be asked to compute the propagated error for an analysis. Use the scale errors or random errors for each piece of data to accomplish this. If three or more analyses are attempted the best value (average  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean) should be reported. Error analysis and the reporting of data were covered in 3611.

After a data table, clearly label and explain a sample calculation for each different type of calculation. These sample calculations should flow logically from the data. For statistical replicate analyses, standard deviations can be taken from a calculator program or spreadsheet. All other calculations (including propagated error) must be shown. On propagated error calculations show the partial differentiation. This should include the beginning equation, the equation for the calculation of the error using partial derivatives, the actual partial derivatives, and a substitution of numbers which generates the final propagated error. Dimensional analysis of units is required when using equations; record numbers to the correct number of significant figures.

- v. The **discussion** section allows you to reflect on what you did and what you saw during the course of the experiment. This section should be written after the experiment is performed. This section also involves an interpretation of data and discussion of it. Speculation is appropriate as well as types of errors that may have affected your results.

This section is often the most difficult to write. In general answer the purpose of the experiment at the beginning of this section. Then proceed to a discussion of errors and finally conclude with the significance or applications of the results. The discussion or errors should include specific references to the various types of errors (scale, scatter, propagated) that are listed in the results section.

- vi. There always should be **references** for your experimentation. Often I give you a reference in the lab handout. Other times you may need to refer to p chem lab books that I have on reserve in the library. Make sure that you reference "true values" in your report as well as any possible text material used. The ACS Style Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) is available in the book store and is a lasting source of information about oral and written communication skills and formats. It has an excellent section on referencing. In general there are three ways to reference: (1) by superscript numbers, (2) by italic numbers on the line and in parentheses inside the punctuation, (3) by author name and year of publication in parentheses inside the punctuation. (This is often called the APA style). Any of these styles will be satisfactory for your report.
- vii. The last entry for every experiment must contain a **comment** section. This is your chance to write anything you like, preferably something you learned that you did not know before. However, your comments (1-2 sentences) may be of your choosing and should pertain to the lab! You may use pronouns in the comment section.

### 13. Protocol for the short formal laboratory report

The **short report** will include only selected sections of the long report as well as an **abstract**.

The **abstract** is a:

- brief summary of the principal findings of the experiment.
- stand-alone, self-contained document.

#### **Contents**

The abstract should *briefly* state:

- the purpose of the research or the research problem including a very short background (introduction),
- how the problem was studied (methods),
- the principal findings, including statistical analyses (results), and
- what the findings mean (discussion and conclusions).

While it is difficult to be both concise and descriptive at the same time, that is exactly what you should strive for when writing an abstract. Say only what is essential, using no more words than necessary to convey the meaning. Examine every word carefully.

#### **Rules**

The abstract should be one or two paragraphs and no more than 250 words.

The abstract should:

- *not* include subheadings such as "Purpose" or "Results."
- *not* use first person, e.g., "I."
- *not* emphasize minor details.
- *not* contain bibliographic references, figures, or tables.
- *not* use jargon or abbreviations (*unless* they are commonly used and do not require explanation, e.g., DNA or UV light)

**Reports will be due either one week after completion of the experiment or as indicated by the instructor. Late reports will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor (usually 10% per day late). Plagiarism is completely unacceptable.**

**PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY 362LAB  
TENTATIVE LABORATORY SCHEDULE**

**SPRING 2007**

1/17	Syllabus	
1/24	E1	Polymer Elasticity
1/31		Polymer Elasticity
2/7	Worksheet	Polymer properties minilab
2/14	E2 (short report)	Determination of the Cross Sectional Area of Stearic Acid
2/21	E3	Viscosity
2/28		Viscosity
3/7		Spring Break
3/14	E4 (short report)	Coulometric Titration
3/21		Coulometric Titration
3/28	E5	Electrolytic Conductivity
4/4		Field trip
4/11	E6	Use of Hooke's Law to Predict IR Spectra
4/18	E7 (short report)	The Kinetics of Pyrophosphate Hydrolysis using NMR
4/25		The Kinetics of Pyrophosphate Hydrolysis using NMR

Changes may be made as new experiments are developed. The field trip is variable and will be scheduled to accommodate the instrumental class.