

Welcome everyone,

If you are reading this letter, you are enrolled in, or on the waiting list for, my CHEM 4 class for the coming semester. I'm really excited to be working with you in CHEM 4... it is one of my favorite classes to teach!

Before I point out some important things for the coming semester, I'd like to introduce myself. I've been teaching chemistry for 25 years now and have had roughly 10,000 students! A lot of students assume that because I am a chemistry professor that I must find chemistry really easy or that I'm particularly smart... the truth is that I'm no smarter than any of you, and I actually struggled when I took freshman chemistry in college, but I didn't let that stop me. Instead I developed strong study skills and took advantage of any help that was available. Because I know what it's like to struggle and work hard in a class, my goal as your professor is to provide you with all the resources you need to reach your full potential. Ultimately, you'll need to do the work, but I plan to be there right along with you to help out however I can.

Asking for help and utilizing all of our class resources will be even more important during this difficult time of social isolation and online learning. You'll see our class website if full of useful resources (on the bottom ½ of the page), so take some time to familiarize yourself with what is available and please, don't hesitate to let me know what you need or how I can help.

If you haven't already done so, please read over the *Syllabus* and the *Lecture schedule* before our first lecture on Monday, August 31. Both handouts are posted right below this letter on our class website along with the Zoom links for joining our synchronous lecture.

That's all for now; please email me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you all this semester.

Best regards,

*Jeff*

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