**Learning/Teaching/Grading Philosophy:** I have come to learn that some of my past practices in grading students were not a true measure of what they were learning. Below is a brief description of my new “point of view” and the grading policy (which has changed) to reflect that. Both are “works in progress.”

At this point in your educational life there is a shift in many areas. You are moving from child to adult, and in some areas of learning from novice to expert. It is with these major changes in mind that I conduct my classroom. Therefore I expect you to independently manage your time and keep track of assignments in your planner. I also expect you to do what is reasonable and necessary to learn the material in this class.

In turn, I will grade you on the processes it takes to learn the material of this course. I will offer many different modes of learning and assessment (“testing”) that will be graded. I will grade any material you complete in as timely a manner as possible. In general, tests and quizzes are graded faster than labs.

**Grading:** Your 5 and 10-week grade will comprise of the following. Please note these grades will be most up to date on-line during the week leading to 5 week progress reports and 10 week grades.

* **PARTICIPATION (5%)**

Students will be graded in participation by the following: attendance, being prepared, willingness to work with others, and behavior.

* **HOMEWORK (15%)**

Assigned homework is due at the beginning of the class. Late homework will not be accepted unless legally absent (an excused absence i.e. illness, approved field trip, death in the family) from school. I will not accept homework anytime after the start of class.

* **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (30%)**

**What are formative assessments?** These are assignments that are a measure of the students learning “as they go.” It is what the student knows right at that moment in time. These formative assessments will/may include the following: POP NOTEBOOK QUIZZES, take home quizzes, reading quizzes, graded homework (will be notified when assigned), lab checks (check in on procedure/progress), and interviews in class or lab.

* **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (50%)**

**What are summative assessments?** These are assignments that are a measure of the content of the course, the learning standards. In other words they are assessments that get you ready for the Regents exams. Summative assessments will/may include the following: classroom quizzes (that are not take home or open book), content based tests, labs.

Students will be notified before a classroom quiz or test is given. Students who are late to class will have no extra time to complete the quiz/test than those students who arrived on time, so please be punctual. Test/quizzes will be given under the guidelines used for administering Regents exams. Behavior outside of these guidelines will result in NO CREDIT.

**LABORATORY**

**New York State *requires* that students complete 1200 minutes of lab AND 4 MANDATORY LAB EXPERIMENTS THAT WILL BE USED ON THE REGENTS EXAM IN JUNE. Therefore, lab attendance is required.**

Students absent from lab MUST MAKE UP LAB TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS. Lab due dates are set by the instructor. All labs must be turned in at the ONE WEEK BEFORE THE END OF THE QUARTER to receive credit for the lab. Any lab not turned in at the time that grades are posted will receive a 0. A student may correct a poorly done lab for a maximum grade of an 80.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET LAB REQUIREMENTS CANNOT TAKE SUMMER SCHOOL AND THEY REPEAT THE COURSE.

**ABSENCES:** Make-ups for quizzes and tests will be given to students legally absent from class. The time in which make ups can be completed will be set according to the length of the absence and the amount of material missed.

Students who miss class or arrive late to school are responsible for getting any notes, homework, or other announcements and notifications. Students who are illegally absent from school (ex. leaving early for vacations) MUST turn in any due work and get any missed assignments before leaving.