



CBMS123

Alchemy, Drugs and the Quest for Immortality

S2 External 2014

Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Alchemy is the art and science of converting one substance into another, and it has been an important factor in shaping our society. Metals, ceramics, drugs and plastics have changed and enhanced our lifestyle. Drugs, fertilisers and pesticides have saved millions of lives, but not without some unforeseen environmental or social problems. When this happens, decisions have to be made and costs weighed against benefits. An appreciation of such issues is needed for better understanding the important problems that face society. This unit explores the way chemistry affects our lives, and the way chemists work things out. The unit does not aim to teach chemistry but looks at the impact that chemical sciences has had on civilisation and where the latest molecular innovations are likely to lead us. The commercial significance of key biological processes and industries is addressed, emphasising the Australian context. The unit also examines connections between chemistry and other scientific fields as diverse as psychology, finance, medicine, environmental studies and astronomy, as well as revealing aesthetic and philosophical aspects of chemistry. This unit is taught completely online with a combination of topical lectures and multimedia material.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution

in chemistry

Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective

Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues

Understand the role of chemistry and the molecular sciences in drug discovery and medicine

Understand the role of chemistry as the source and solution of environmental issues

Understand the role of chemistry in industry

Understand how chemists approach scientific and seek to solve chemical questions

Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
workshop 1	10%	Week 3
Workshop 2	10%	Week7
Workshop 3	10%	Week 9
Workshop 4	10%	Week 11
Workshop 5	10%	Week 13
Essay 1	25%	Week 5
Essay 2	25%	Week 8

workshop 1

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **10%**

test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution in chemistry
- Understand the role of chemistry in industry
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Workshop 2

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **10%**

test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have have their solution in chemistry
- Understand the role of chemistry and the molecular sciences in drug discovery and medicine
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Workshop 3

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **10%**

test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have have their solution in chemistry
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Workshop 4

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **10%**

test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have have their solution in chemistry
- Understand the role of chemistry as the source and solution of environmental issues
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Workshop 5

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **10%**

test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution in chemistry
- Understand how chemists approach scientific and seek to solve chemical questions
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Essay 1

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **25%**

**Pick either a Book Chapter
or a Chemical Industry and write an essay**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Understand the role of chemistry in industry
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Essay 2

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **25%**

**Write a Poem! On Chemistry, chemical philosophy or the lectures so far
or**

Write a critical Essay on the philosophy of Science if it had been written by chemists

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues
- Understand how chemists approach scientific and seek to solve chemical questions
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Delivery and Resources

iLearn

library

internet

Unit Schedule

Week # commencing	e-lecture <i>Office hours: Tuesday 1–2</i>	e-lecture <i>Office hours: Friday 10–11</i>	Assignment / activities scheduled this week
0 ...29 Jul	Read Unit Guide and familiarise yourself with the iLearn resources	Read Unit Guide and familiarise yourself with the iLearn resources	
1 ...4 Aug	LIVE LECTURE L0 Introductory Remarks and navigating this unit 1 PM # LECTURE IN W5AT2#	L1: Chemistry through the Ages BO L2: Elements of Chemistry BO	<i>Familiarisation with unit notes, Library services, e-resources....;</i>
2 ...11 Aug	L3: Aluminium from Ore to Oven BO <i>plus</i> Preview of L4, L5 & E1	L4: Bridges for Civilisation BO	<i>Prepare for Workshop W1</i>
3 ...18 Aug	L5: Chemistry – Creative, Useful BO and Central	L6: Health, Life & Natural Products PK – Shipworm to Carbolic Acid ... W1 is due at 9 am Friday	W1 Pick a Pair of Elements <i>Prepare for Workshop W1 and Essay E1</i>
4 ...25 Aug	L7: Health, Life & Natural Products PK – Salvarsan to Penicillin;	L8: Health, Life & Natural Products - PK What Do Molecules Look Like?	<i>Prepare for Essay E1</i>
5 ...1 Sept	L9: Health, Life & Natural Products JJ – Chemicals from Nature ... E1 is due at 9 am Monday	L10: Biochemical Catalysts PK – Enzymes at Work	E1 Pick either a Book Chapter or a Chemical Industry
6 ...8 Sept	L11: Industrial Catalysts – BO The Legacy of Fritz Haber	L12: Molecules Everywhere BO Space, Primordial Slime	<i>Prepare for Workshop 2</i>
7 ...29 Sept	L13: Is Chemistry Art or Science? PK	L14: New Materials – Modern JJ Alchemy ... W2 is due at 9 am Friday	W2 Pick a Pair of either Drugs or Biomolecules
RECESS (22 Sept – 7 Oct) prepare essay 2			
8 ... 7 Oct	L15: Chemistry in and for the Environment #1 MN ... E2 is due at 9 am Tuesday	L16: Chemistry in and for the Environment #2 MN	E2 Write a Poem! On Chemistry, chemical philosophy or the lectures so far <i>Prepare for Workshop 3</i>
9 ...13 Oct	L17: Chemical Identity PK – What are you?	L18: Chemical Identity JJ – How much of you is there? ... W3 is due at 9 am Friday	W3 Catalysts - Biological and Industrial

10 ... 20 Oct	L19: Chemical Identity PK – What is going on?	L20: Chemical identity PK – The same ... but different	<i>Prepare for Workshop 4</i>
11 ... 27 Oct	L21: When Things Go PK Wrong ...	L22: A Famous Chemist – BO Linus Pauling ... <i>W4 is due at 9 am Friday</i>	W4 Environmental Chemistry
12 ... 3 Nov	L23: Stop Press – The 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, PK LIVE LECTURE 1 PM # LECTURE IN W5AT2#	L24: Chemical Issues MN	<i>Prepare for Workshop W5</i>
13 .. 10 Nov	L25: no lectures this week	W5 Identity, Structure, Composition & Change ... <i>W5 is due at 9 am Friday</i>	W5 Identity, Structure, Composition & Change

Note: CBMS reserves the right to vary details of this schedule if necessary

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Assessment tasks

- workshop 1
- Workshop 2
- Workshop 3
- Workshop 4
- Workshop 5
- Essay 1
- Essay 2

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Understand the role of chemistry and the molecular sciences in drug discovery and medicine

Assessment tasks

- Workshop 2
- Essay 1

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution

in chemistry

- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues
- Understand the role of chemistry as the source and solution of environmental issues

Assessment tasks

- workshop 1
- Workshop 2
- Workshop 3
- Workshop 4
- Workshop 5
- Essay 1
- Essay 2

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Understand how chemists approach scientific and seek to solve chemical questions

Assessment tasks

- Workshop 5
- Essay 2

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the role of chemistry and the molecular sciences in drug discovery and

medicine

- Understand how chemists approach scientific and seek to solve chemical questions

Assessment tasks

- Workshop 2
- Workshop 5
- Essay 2

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have have their solution in chemistry
- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Understand the role of chemistry in industry

Assessment tasks

- workshop 1
- Workshop 2
- Workshop 3
- Workshop 4
- Workshop 5
- Essay 1

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution in chemistry
- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues
- Understand the role of chemistry as the source and solution of environmental issues
- Understand the role of chemistry in industry
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Assessment tasks

- workshop 1
- Workshop 2
- Workshop 3
- Workshop 4
- Workshop 5
- Essay 1
- Essay 2

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify issues facing humanity that are caused by chemicals or have their solution in chemistry
- Be able to discuss important issues that have a chemical basis from a rational perspective
- Be able to critically evaluate non-specialist literature (e.g. Newspapers) that discuss chemical and biochemical issues
- Understand the role of chemistry as the source and solution of environmental issues
- Understand the role of chemistry in industry
- Identify chemical issues facing humanity

Assessment tasks

- workshop 1
- Workshop 2
- Workshop 3
- Workshop 4
- Workshop 5
- Essay 1
- Essay 2