

**From:** Katz, David  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 2:03 PM  
**To:** Gilliland, Mary; Kolchens, Silvia  
**Subject:** A formal academic complaint

This communication is a formal complaint against Dr. [REDACTED], adjunct faculty member of the Department of Chemistry at the West Campus of Pima community College.

Dr. [REDACTED] was assigned to cover my CHM 151IN Laboratory class CRN 23436 and my CHM 121IN Integrated Lecture Laboratory class CRN 24048 while I was out for medical leave from January 18, 2011 to March 11, 2011.

According to the **Adjunct Faculty Guidebook 2010-2011**, page 11:

**Adjunct Faculty for Pima Community College have two primary responsibilities:**

- **Instruction of the student.**
- **Performance of necessary educational obligations.**

**In carrying out these responsibilities, the instructor is required to:**

- **Provide instruction and conduct classes in accordance with the philosophy of the College and within the course of study defined by the department. Cooperate with full-time faculty members in regard to educational matters.**

CHM 121 IN is an established integrated lecture-laboratory class that is taught as a web enhanced course. As the class has no formal textbook, all the course content is available on the CHM 121IN web page with links to reading material and related web resources along with all the laboratory experiments and activities. The web Page URL is <http://www.chymist.com/Chemistry%20and%20societv.html> Students are told to download the laboratory material for each class, although some students do work from their personal laptop computers.

Dr. [REDACTED] was given a detailed syllabus for the CHM 121IN course with the course description, course objectives, an outline of all the topics for class content/discussion, laboratory activities/experiments for **each specific date the class met**, and detailed course policies and information. The syllabus was distributed by Dr. [REDACTED] to the class. A copy of that syllabus is attached.

Dr. [REDACTED] was also provided with printed copies of all laboratory experiments scheduled for the period of January 18 to February 22.

Dr. [REDACTED] did not communicate with me or ask any questions during the time he was covering this course.

Dr. [REDACTED] did not cover the course content during the period from January 18 to March 11.

**Keep accurate records and submit all records when required.**

The records submitted for the CHM 121IN course are inaccurate. Attendance records were not maintained in accordance with the course syllabus. Students were graded as absent, but were

assigned grades for work performed on those days. Students who were present received grades of zero for work on those days, yet, some students presented graded reports, and, in some cases, ungraded, but completed reports for those same days. The attendance and grade records are unreliable. There is an attendance-participation component of the course grade, but due to inaccurate records, it cannot be applied fairly to the students.

Furthermore, Dr. [REDACTED] left me a pile of approximately 60 papers and reports, dating from the beginning of the semester, which were never returned to students.

A requirement of the CHM 151 IN laboratory class is that students complete a laboratory report as a summary of each experiment performed. For this CHM 151IN laboratory class, Dr. [REDACTED] never returned any graded reports to the students. The class had no idea of their progress in the course, and, without any feedback in the form of their graded reports, have no opportunity to make corrections or modifications on subsequent reports to improve their grades. I did, after meeting with the class on March 22, 2011, get a pile of papers containing every report from the beginning of the semester. It is imperative that students be kept apprised of their progress in the course and Dr, [REDACTED] actions are inexcusable.

### **Meet all assigned classes with adequate preparation**

Dr. [REDACTED] consistently met the CHM 121IN class without preparation. He explained no content as listed on the course syllabus and just had the students perform laboratory experiments, dismissing the class early. From my review of papers given to that were not returned to students, and reports that were turned in during the week of March 21, 2011, he did not explain the problem solving techniques necessary for the students to complete the reports. Since the laboratory experiments are applications of course content, the students had no idea of why they were doing these experiments nor what they were doing.

The course description as stated on the syllabus is:

**CHM 121IN** is an integrated lecture-laboratory course that examines applications of the methods and theories of chemistry to social questions and "headline stories". Students will explore, through discussions and hands-on activities and experiments, how current scientific information is applied to atmospheric and environmental issues, nuclear chemistry, radiocarbon dating and archaeological research, fuels and energy, alternative energy sources, and other selected topics in the news occurring during the duration of the course, or from instructor selected topics such as the science in science fiction books and films, crime investigation techniques, and nanotechnology. No previous chemistry course is required.

The goal of this course is to present the basic knowledge of the topics in the course description to initiate the process of lifelong learning producing educated citizens who know how to find, critically evaluate, and discuss "headline stories" involving these topics.

During this spring, headline stories have included melting arctic ice, severe weather conditions in the U.S., earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear energy and nuclear reactors, all of which should have been discussed in context with the content of this course. With no content presented in the course, the objectives were not met. The first half of the semester, for these students, has been wasted.

I am well aware of the fact that students are not always up to date on class material, but for an instructor to consistently go into class with no preparation and to present no content is inexcusable. Dr. [REDACTED] has demonstrated that he is not capable of providing Pima Community College students with

The quality of education that is a function of the duties and responsibilities of all instructional faculty of this institution.

I strongly recommend that Dr. [REDACTED] be terminated and not teach any future classes at Pima Community College.

David A. Katz

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