

Mr. Sweeten's Classroom & Course Expectations for Planetary Exploration

Procedures and Expectations

The student will be responsible for:

1. ...respecting his/her classmates. If your self-esteem comes from entertaining others at someone's expense, it will not fly here.
2. ...arriving on time. **With a 3rd lateness, we'll have a talk and you will be referred to E23 with additional latenesses.**
3. ...bringing your **notebook and a pencil**. Your notebook should include a three ring binder to take advantage of the 3 hole punchers in the back of the room.
4. ...understanding that **class is dismissed by me when we are in the midst of a conversation, not the bell.**
5. ...attending this class. **If you cut my class, you are NOT entitled to make up the test, quiz, or work that was collected or assigned that day. Instead, you will receive a zero.** Our computer-based attendance system makes it fairly easy for me and your house office to discover your cuts.
6. ...understanding that **tests will be announced at least 2 full days in advance.** You will **usually be warned of quizzes at least 1 day ahead of time.**
7. ...realizing **that a grade level worth of points will be deducted for each day of lateness for all assignments.** *Work will not be accepted once it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class.* While most work will be returned to you soon after it is handed in and graded, some will be kept on file to be returned later or made available at an appropriate time before an upcoming exam.
8. ...**USING MY PLANEX TASKS WEBPAGE FOR THE CURRENT MARKING PD. IN THE CASE OF ABSENCE(S)** and then for seeing me **IMMEDIATELY** upon your return to get any needed details on what you missed.

Here are more specifics --

A) If you miss a test or quiz:

...for which we have only reviewed during your absence, **you will be expected to take it BY THE 2ND DAY OF YOUR RETURN!!!**

...which will include NEW material you missed during your absence, you will have **at least** as many days as you were absent before you need to take it.

B) Together, you and I will determine when during the day **OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME** you will make up other work. *I will always be available before school and usually be available during both LB1 and LB2 in E25 for make ups or extra help!*

C) Missed laboratory work must be made up **within one week outside of class time.**

D) Lengthy absences will require special arrangements. **Using the current MP's PlanEx Tasks webpage will be crucial in such a case!**

9. ...applying himself/herself to the best of his/her ability.

10. ...following all guidelines of laboratory safety procedures.

Understand that I will NOT "hold your hand" through this course by reminding you daily of assignments that have not been completed. *C.H. West science at the A level as an upperclassmen requires a high degree of responsibility and if you believe it's time you should be treated as an adult, you will need to be responsible like one.*

Mr. Sweeten will be responsible for:

- ...identifying the "learning style" strengths and weaknesses of all students to help him design activities that will optimize learning for all and also to create task variety throughout the year.
- ...giving appropriate feedback on student performance in a timely way.
- ...providing an atmosphere of academic inquiry so that as we learn about the physical work, "ah ha" moments happen as often as possible. (Mr. Sweeten will work hard to make it clear he loves teaching and creating "ah ha" moments.)
- ...making certain students have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in an interesting variety of individual and group work formats.
- ...giving students appropriate time to make up missed work (see #9 above).
- **...providing students with extra help before school ANYDAY) and during LB1 or LB2 when possible when it is needed.**
- ...providing students with these class expectations, a course content outline and other important class information online at <http://sjisa.org/sweeten/planex.htm>.

More about Mr. Sweeten

1986 graduate of Clearview Regional High School – Mullica Hill, NJ
1990 graduate of Rutgers College (Rutgers University) – New Brunswick, NJ
Bachelor’s Degree – Physics/Sociology
2011 graduate of Grand Canyon University
Master’s Degree of Ed. – Curriculum & Instruction Technology

Assessment

The student will be evaluated in the following ways, using a “total points” grading method, but with the following percentage weights given to each category of tasks:

50% Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Labs)

50% HW/CW/Activities

Labs and classwork will often include hands-on activities in which careful observations, precise measurements and conscientious record-keeping will be necessary in order to achieve *accurate* results and conclusions which will influence the grade you receive. Provided the student has *given reasonable effort*, students will be given the opportunity to reassess quizzes/tests in order *to achieve a satisfactory grade*.

NJ standards met by this course are denoted in an accompanying course outline. These expectations, the outline and other useful course information are available at all times at

<http://sjisa.org/sweeten/planex.htm>.

“The only stupid questions are the ones you never ask.” -Mr. Sweeten

If you or your parents ever wish to contact me from home or work, I will respond quickest to emails which should be sent to SSweeten@chclc.org. Send your email by 8pm if you wish to likely get a response that night.

Don’t forget that other useful information and resources can always be found at my website’s homepage at <http://sjisa.org/sweeten>.

You can also follow me on Twitter [@MrSatCHWest!](https://twitter.com/MrSatCHWest)

Your signature

A parent’s/guardian’s signature