

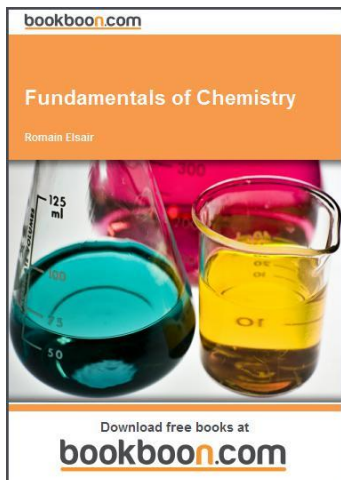


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Fundamentals of Chemistry



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Textbook Authors:

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Reviewed by:

Larry Mink

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Title/Position:

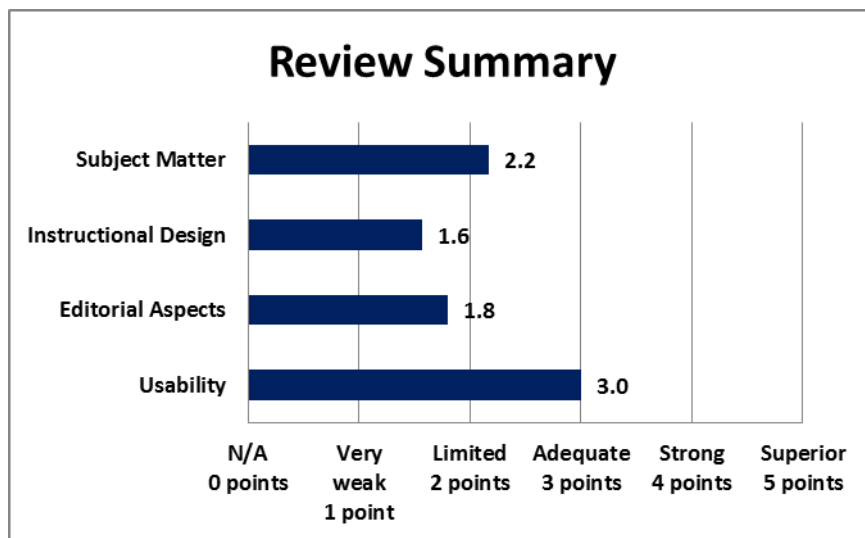
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [CHEM 120S](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?		X				

Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?		X				
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?		X				
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?				X		
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?			X			
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X

Total Points: 13 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- This text book is about 50% advertisements (for products and/or companies) embedded within its chapters. I have never seen this before.
- The text book covers less than half the material that is required for a general chemistry text book for science majors. It touches of what would be considered the first sequence of a general chemistry college course, and does not cover at all what would be the second component of general chemistry with regard to the topics of thermodynamics, chemical equilibrium, kinetics, buffers and etc.
- The last chapter this book is to a very limited degree on Thermochemistry. However, even such basic chapters pertaining to the Gas Laws is not included.
- The text book is 133 pages in length whereas the average general chemistry text book for science majors is about 1,100 pages in length.
- Even the chapters that are presented would be at the level of a General Education Chemistry textbook at best. However, most G.E. chemistry textbooks involve special topics such as pertaining to environmental issues, nutrition, and energy which this book does not have.
- There is no end of book Appendices pertaining to the chemical properties of the elements.
- There is no presentation of the topics associated to mathematical functions, significant digits, and conversion factor methodology.
- There is not an Index at the back of the book.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?		X				
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)				X		
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?		X				
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?			X			
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?		X				
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)		X				
Is the textbook searchable?			X			

Total Points: 11 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The textbook does have a table of contents, but no back of the book index.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?			X			

Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)		X				
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)		X				
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)		X				

Total Points: 9 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The images are very rudimentary at best.
- The font sizes differ from location to location and at times are far too large. Examples of such issues are found on pages 33, 67, 76, 79 etc...

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?				X		
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)					X	
Can the textbook be printed easily?					X	
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?		X				
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?				X		

Total Points: 15 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- This text book is FULL (about 40 %) of advertisements. Rendering in my opinion the text book not appropriate for any university chemistry class at any level.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?		X				
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	X					

Total Points: 1 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- None.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- This text book would require a full rewrite.
- It must get rid of the ads.
- All images would need to be approved on.
- The level of all chapters would need to be approved upon, and the entire second half topics of a traditional general chemistry curriculum would need to be included.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the [textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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