

CH 302 Random Musings, Spring 2008, Top of the First (January 22, 2008)

1. For folks new to the class, this is the first of a collection of random musings that I post once a week to keep you abreast of what is going on in class. Most important, specific questions about quizzes and exams as well as changes to the syllabus are provided here. Remember, it is your responsibility to read the musings even if you cannot come to class (they will be posted on the web.) I take a wearied view of students asking me questions that I previously answered in this forum.

2. Everybody has a preference for the kind of humanity they hang with—old people, adults, college students.... for my money nothing beats hanging out with children. I have made a bunch of them myself, including a few your age, but there is a new crop coming along. The oldest of this batch, Sam, is seven and is named after Sam-I-Am, of Green Eggs and Ham fame. Sam is further proof that if you have enough kids, one of them will become an engineer. Maddie is my five year old and is named after the Madeline character. She is proof that if you have enough kids, one will be a girl. I am still learning how to raise daughters but one thing I know for sure from being around one is she is a better person than me and lets me know it daily. My youngest, and I hope to God, last, is my three year old, Nate Dog, who is not named after Nate Dogg, the rapper (who has two gs in his name.) Nate Dog, the son, is a punk, and is proof that if you have enough kids, one of them will make you not want to have any more. Below are pictures of them



3. Your first quiz is Tuesday, one week from today and will cover the material in the first four lectures and on Worksheet 2. For those new to this class, quizzes are used instead of homework as my way of forcing you to keep up with the material. They are not intended to be as challenging as the tests. Some things you should know about quiz procedures:

- Quizzes will occur the last 20 minutes of class and will cover 8 questions worth five points each.
- You will be provided a scantron at the beginning of class to be filled in correctly. It is important that you learn to do this so you can get credit for your quizzes and exams.
- I will provide you with all necessary equations and constants at the beginning of the quiz.
- I am not a real stickler for time on quizzes (I am a stickler on exams) but you do need to be finished in time for the other class to come in.
- Expect to have the quiz grades and the answer key posted on QUEST soon after the class ends.
- If there is a problem with your grade, refer to the regrade procedure in the syllabus and on the web--do not e-mail me about this. Instead, fill out a regrade request and turn it in to Travis.
- There are no make-ups for quizzes. You get to drop two so they are used in that way for both academic and non-academic reasons. Only contact me about make-ups if your absences are chronic.

4. The question types for Quiz 1 are straight Worksheet 2:

- Calculating ΔH for a substance across various phase changes
 - Interpreting phase diagrams
 - Theory dissolution of gases, liquids and solids in water
 - Ranking miscibility and solubility in liquids
 - Clausius-Clapeyron calculation
 - Van't Hoff ranking of magnitude of colligative properties
 - Raoult's Law in a binary system
 - Colligative property calculation

5. This is actually a fairly tough quiz with some multi-step calculations. The 20 question Worksheet 2 includes these kinds of problem types. By the way, for those of you who start to feel overwhelmed about all the material, just remember that you need to do these 8 things for next week's quiz and study these directly.

6. Those of you who want to know your quiz results will need to learn to use QUEST rather than the old HW Service. . You can reach it from a link on my web site. I am hopeful that QUEST will be many orders of magnitude better than the HW Service, but it is in a testing phase as we roll it out for the first time this semester, so if there are issues, please let me know so that I can ask the programmers to work on them.

7. My course packets, with 420 pages of bound material, should be ready for sale on Thursday. I am not allowed to sell them, so the Natural Sciences Council will be doing so, and as I mentioned will be using the modest profit (about \$10 per course packet) to contribute to the scholarship fund. Please bring \$25 in check or cash on Thursday and right after class, in about 5 minutes time, you can exchange your money for a bound packet that includes:

- the syllabus
- last year's quizzes and exams
- the worksheets and answer keys
- the lecture notes for the course

You don't have to purchase the notes, and much of this material is available on line, but it is far less expensive than if I had a third party sell them to you, and less expensive if you downloaded and printed them yourself. Most of you will find the course packet to be the most important resource for this class.

8. I use Atkins Jones, 4th edition, so those of you currently using a different text may want to switch. The text book I use is on-line which has the added perk that it is only about \$60. I was under the impression that it would continue from the fall but I was mistaken, and have just now set the course up on line so you can make the purchase. For those of you continuing the course with me from the fall, you still have access.

Here are the instructions for the folks purchasing the text:

To register for your course, your students should:

1.) Point their browsers to <http://courses.bfwpub.com/chemprin.php>

(Again, if they're Mac users, they will need to use Firefox).

2.) Click on the link "REGISTER AN ACTIVATION CODE."

3.) Your student will be prompted to follow the on-screen instructions to find your course. They will start by selecting your school's state/province, the school name, then their instructor, course, and/or section.

4.) Your new students will need to enter the activation code [**e4-uf-3ggzjr8f**] [**e4-uf-3ggzkh88**]. Once they've entered this activation code, each student will then enter his/her email address, select a password and password hint. After completing this registration process, your students can now use ChemPortal!

9. Many of you have asked, “what do I do if I used a different textbook from the fall?” And here is my answer:

I still remember the magical moment as a junior in college, while struggling to understand a quantitative analysis course I was taking, when Tom Rand (the smartest kids in the school) walked into the little chemistry reading room in which I was staying. He headed back to the library of books and returned with a couple of unfamiliar textbooks. I said, “what are those”, and he said, “I use them to study for our class, and I said, why don’t you use our text book”, and he said, “because it is terrible”, and I said, “yes, it is terrible”, and he said, “so why do you use it when there are hundreds of really good text books in this reading room that explain the stuff much better?”

And that is when I first realized that for the most part, there are a million text books for every subject and they all teach pretty much the same thing, so why not find the one that works best for you.

This is my long winded way of saying I don’t care what text book, if any, you use for this course, because I am sufficiently confident in my knowledge of the material that I don’t really need to reference one, and frankly, like the way I teach better than anyone else (either that or I am lazy.)

So for those of you wondering whether to use Atkins or to use Zumdahl, my answer is, I don’t really care. I will say that as a matter of convenience, Zumdahl is laid out in an utterly random way compared to the order in which I teach, so it may be a little tricky finding how stuff matches up from lecture to text, but that is why there is a table of contents and an index. One other plus for Atkins is that I create practice quizzes and exams on the Atkins web site and you need to purchase the text to access them.

10. Exam conflicts: It seems the entire class has a conflict with my evening exams. No doubt that I could be as difficult about make-ups as whatever other course exam is in conflict, but I won’t be. Very simply, I will be giving a make-up exam on the Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. following the regularly scheduled exams. Exceptions to this make-up time will be staggeringly few in number, so don’t go scheduling anything for those Sundays if you already have conflicts.

11. I will coordinating this course with Dave Vandebout’s CH 302 that meets earlier in the day on TTh. This means that we will be teaching approximately the same material in our lectures and giving identical exams at the same times. You should feel free to use his office hours and discussion sections as well if you have conflicts (or simply don’t like your own teacher and TAs.) His web site with this information is

<http://courses.cm.utexas.edu/dvandenbout/ch302/contact.html>

12. Laude’s Office Hours. I have one office hour a day, Monday through Thursday. Attendance varies significantly, from a couple of students to hundreds depending on urgency of the learning (ie. is there a test soon.) My preference is to hold them in my office when fewer than 30 show up, cause I dig the intimacy. But when intimacy becomes a crowd it is time to move to a classroom. So I will let you know as best I can when it will be one place or another. But as a rule, on the day before and the day of a quiz or test, the office hour will be in the classroom. So for example, there is a quiz next Tuesday so office hours will be in the classrooms. This week, however, only the couple dozen stalwarts show up each time so we are meeting in my office. If there is something more personal you would like to discuss with me, you will need to make an appointment with my assistant since my office hours are always open door.

Monday 2 to 3 pm	WCH 2.222 or PAR 301	Discussion section	Dave Laude
Tuesday 1 to 2 pm	WCH 2.222 or GEO 2.324	Discussion section	Dave Laude
Wednesday 1 to 2 pm	WCH 2.222 or WAG 420	Discussion section	Dave Laude
Thursday 10 to 11 a.m.	WCH 2.222 or BUR 224	Discussion section	Dave Laude

13. Academic Communities and Peer Assistants. To make the academic communities work effectively, we need your assistance. The TAs can't do it alone and so in the past I have had success asking students to serve as peers in this effort. This spring each TA will form a collection of his or her own peer assistants who will meet for dinner with the TA in the residence hall and discuss the upcoming work, the study groups, and life in general. I typically need about five to ten per night. If you would like to participate, please e-mail a TA associated with your preferred nights. What you would do on a weekly basis is come to dinner with the TA before the discussion sessions to go over the answers to the worksheets. You would later circulate in the study groups that evening fostering good study group activity as work is done on the worksheets and other materials in preparation for quizzes and exams. If you don't have a meal plan, we can arrange for you to eat for free if you are selected as a peer assistant. Times and locations for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings are listed below.

Academic Community Study Groups Times and Locations:

<i>day and time</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>activity</i>	<i>usual presider</i>
Sunday 6:30 to 7:30 pm.	Jester A121A	Discussion section	Eric Estrin
Sunday 7:30 to 9:30 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Eric Estrin
Monday 7 to 8 pm	LLB 103	Discussion section	Yuxuan Wang
Monday 8 to 10 pm	Kinsolving dining hall	Academic community	Yuxuan Wang
Tuesday 7 to 8 pm	LLB 103	Discussion section	Travis Johnson
Tuesday 8 to 10 pm	Kinsolving dining	Academic community	Travis Johnson
Wednesday 6:30 to 7:30 pm.	Jester A305A	Discussion section	Jessica Shay
Wednesday 7:30 to 9:30 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Jessica Shay

14. Free advertising. I provide a service to students by allowing them to advertise reasonable student organizations and activities in the musings (this means I have to draw the line at debauchorous parties). Just e-mail me by midnight before I post a musings and I will add it.

Your organization or event advertisement here

15. Poetry Corner. For those of you new to the class, a poem or two is read every week for the culturally challenged. Personally I prefer dark, brooding angry male poetry. So if you want cheeriness and love, like on Valentine's Day, you'll need to forward suggestions. For right now, what with MLK day just behind us and Black History Month in front of us, I give you one of my favorite poets from my youth, Langston Hughes, an angry black male poet whose poetry from 60 years ago is sadly still relevant.

Who But the Lord

Langston Hughes
 I looked and I saw
 That man they call the Law.
 He was coming
 Down the street at Me!
 I had visions in my head
 Of being laid out cold and dead.
 Or else murdered
 By the third degree.
 I said, O Lord, if you can,
 Save me from hat man!
 But the Lord he was not quick.
 The Law raised up his stick
 And beat the living hell
 Out of me!
 Now I do not understand
 Why God don't protect a man
 From police brutality.
 Being poor and blame
 I've no weapons to strike back
 So who but the Lord

Third Degree

Langston Hughes
 Hit me! Jab me!
 Make me say I did it.
 Blood on my sport shirt
 And my tan suede shoes.
 Faces like jack-o-lanterns
 In gray slouch hats.
 Slug me! Beat me!
 Scream jumps out
 Like blow torch.
 Three kicks between the legs
 That kill the kids
 I'd make tomorrow.
 Bars and floor skyrocket
 And burst Roman candles.
 When you throw
 Cold water on me,
 I'll sign the
 Paper...

