

CH 302 Random Musings, Spring 2010, Top of the First (January 25, 2011)

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. About me. 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 a little older than you who are “adults” and basically out of my control, but there is a new crop coming along. The oldest of this batch, Sam, is ten and is named after Sam-I Am, of Green Eggs and Ham fame. With every day that passes Sam is more and more dork-like, and is further proof that if you have enough kids, one of them will become an engineer. Maddie is my eight 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. For example, she just got an E+ for conduct. (So now we call her E+ and it drives her crazy.) The big problem for me right now is she is at an age that she refuses to go to the father –daughter dance with me. I will have to bribe her. My six year old, Nate Dog, is not named after Nate Dogg, the rapper (who has two gs in his name.) The Nate Dog that is my 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—I put him in Taekwondo so he would start hitting things legally. Except that we did have another one, Andrew, who is 2 and a half years old, doesn't have a nickname, and thinks that he should have everything everyone else has--and screams bloody murder if he doesn't get it. Life is a joy right now.



3. Your first quiz is Tuesday, February 2, exactly one week from today and will cover the material in the first four lectures and on Worksheet 1. 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.
- You will receive two practice quizzes to help you study—one that I write and post Friday night in the portal and one the TAs produce that I post in the portal on Sunday.
- I will provide you with all necessary equations and constants at the beginning of the quiz.
- There is no calculator on quizzes and exams in this class!! Trust your ability to do simple math operations in your head or on paper, and practice the math skills demanded of you on the practice exams and quizzes.
- 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 from 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 1 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 **ONLY** these 8 things for the quiz and should study these question types directly.

6. My course packets were sold last Thursday and again this afternoon. There may be a few left for \$25. Check with Judy, my assistant, at jkdavis@mail.utexas.edu to see if there are extras. Remember that the money from these sales funds an endowment that will be providing students with scholarships until the end of time. Pretty cool.

7. I use Atkins Jones--the text book is in an on-line portal on-line. Those of you coming from another class might say, "what do I do if I used a different textbook from the fall?" And here is my answer: hey, free country. If you don't want to spend the money for the portal subscription then you will be denied e-mail access, the e-book, practice exams and quizzes and soon, the video links that will be embedded in the dynamic textbook as soon as Miranda gets back from her interviews. But it is your call and if you choose not to make the purchase, please be willing to accept the consequences.

8. Exam conflicts: It seems the entire class has a conflict with my Thursday 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 after the regularly scheduled exams. You can find the information on exam reviews, exam times and make-up exam times at:

<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/sessionss11.pdf>

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 40 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 WAG 214	Laude	Discussion section
Tuesday noon to 1 pm	WCH 2.222 or JGB 2.324	Laude	Discussion section
Wednesday 1 to 2 pm	WCH 2.222 or WAG 201	Laude	Discussion section
Thursday 11 am to noon.	WCH 2.222 or UTC 3.134	Laude	Discussion section

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, Wednesday and Thursday 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 7 to 8 pm.	UTC 1.118	Discussion section	Daniel
Sunday 8 to 10 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Daniel
Monday 7 to 8 pm	LLB 103	Discussion section	Miranda
Monday 8 to 10 pm	Kinsolving dining hall	Academic community	Miranda
Tuesday 6:30 to 7:30 pm	LLB 103	Discussion section	Travis
Tuesday 7:30 to 10 pm	Kinsolving dining	Academic community	Travis
Wednesday 6:30 to 7:30 pm	JES A215A	Discussion section	Danny
Wednesday 7:30 to 10 pm	Jester A305A	Academic community	Danny
Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 pm	JES A216A	Discussion section	Ben
Thursday 7:30 to 10 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Ben

14. A thought on studying hard for this class. It always cracks me up when students who did poorly first semester e-mail claiming that they are turning over a new leaf in the spring, as if, just saying it, means anything. Here is how I know you mean it. You act on your intentions. So far it is evident that few who struggled in the fall are acting on it, since the very few students to come to my office hours Monday and Tuesday were mostly my A students from last semester. So when are you actually going to change? Talk, talk, talk.

15. 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 debaucherous parties). Just e-mail me by midnight before I post a musings and I will add it.

Your organization or event advertisement here

SURGe's First meeting of the spring

SURGe

SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH GROUP

2011!

Returning or new members:
Meet the Officers ↵
Join a Committee ↵
Learn About... ↵

SURGe! ↵

- Bring out your *inner scientist* ↵
Become a Member!!!

Time: Friday 4pm, January 28th
Location: PAI 3.02
Incentive: Free food, new people,
and not-awkward icebreakers



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...