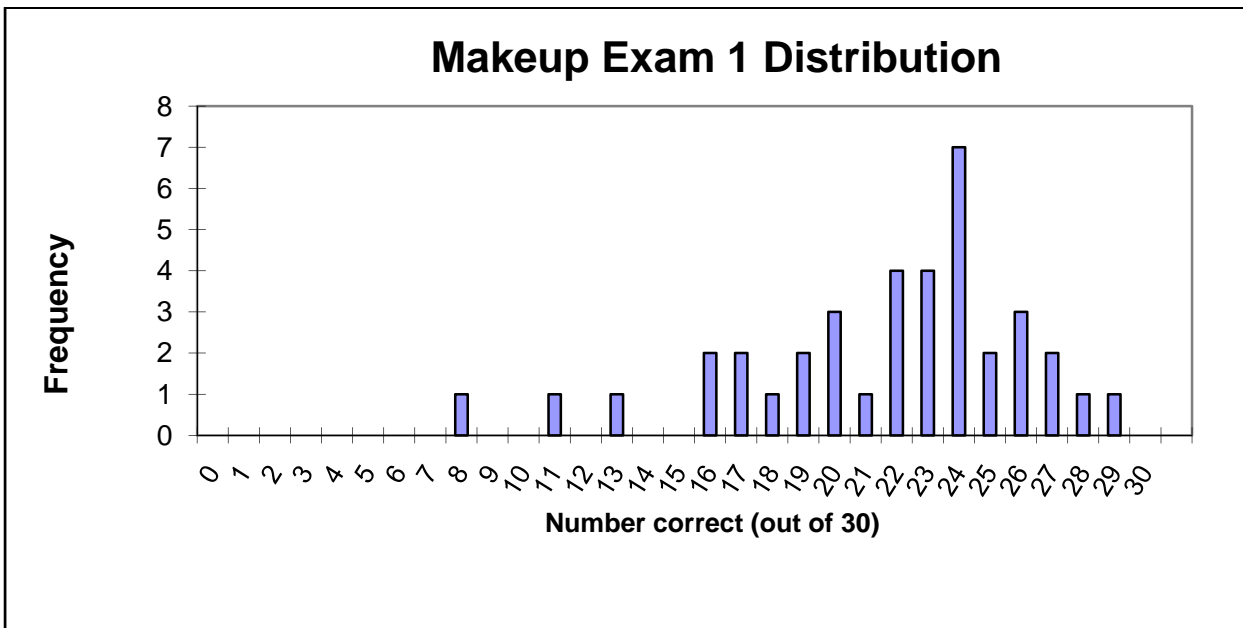
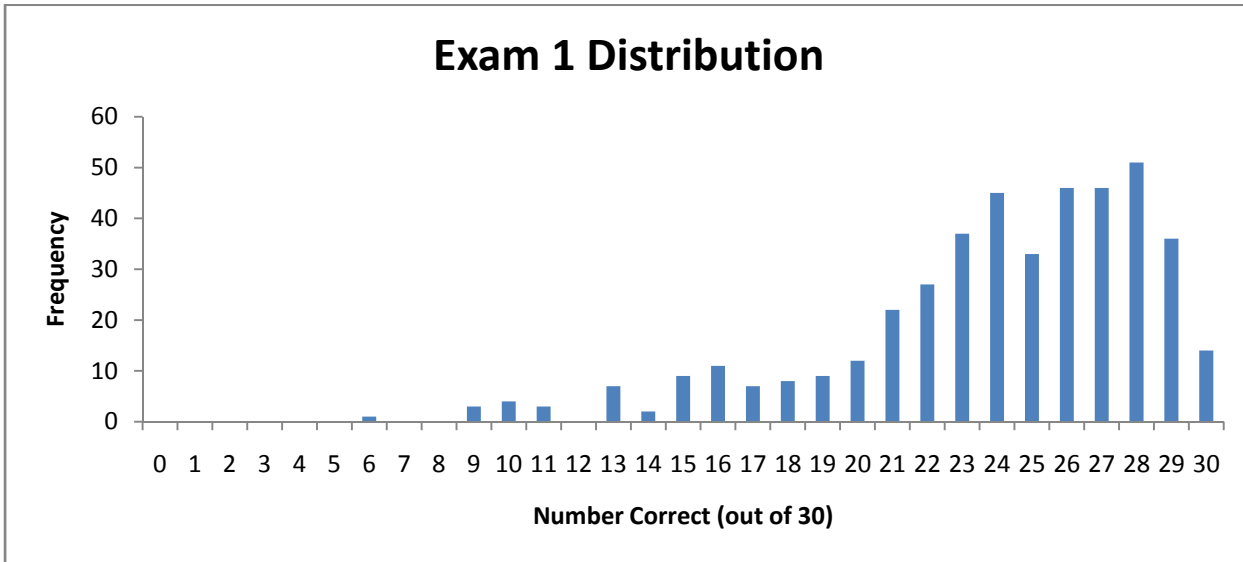


CH301 Random Musings October 9, 2007

1. The results from the first exam are back and the results are very good, an average of 80 for the regular exam. Here is the distribution and something that should approximate what you might assign as a letter grade (which is meaningless when you are trying to reach a point total).



3. Throwing out bad questions. People e-mail me to throw out bad questions all the time. When I throw out a question it has to be for one of three reasons. E-mail me if you have a concern:
 - the answer to the question was flawed (wrong or ambiguous)
 - there was a typo that made the question nonsensical
 - I taught the material so poorly that you all couldn't fairly answer the question.

As for questions on this first exam that might be tossed, I have yet to finalize this with Travis who has been away, but possible candidates include:

- The ionic radius ranking on the Wednesday exam that was complicated by the d orbitals
- The particle in a box on Sunday that pretty much everyone missed and I don't know why
- The Aufbau, Hund and Pauli on Sunday where the Pauli exception was dubious because it was placed in a new orbital.

Travis and I will discuss this and decide by Thursday and will decide what to exclude. Try to understand that if you got one of these questions right, and I toss it, you get no extra points. The reason is that I am tossing a question because it is flawed, not because it is too hard.

5. A plea from a fellow student. For our next exam, can you please emphasize the rule that all cell phones must be turned off? I was sitting 3 rows from the front and I could hear like a zillion cell phones vibrating amongst all the backpacks. It would be really awesome if you could just mention that cell phones turned off completely would be greatly appreciated.

6. Those of you with grading issues should download (or pick up during class) and return a regrade request form. No one ever listens to what I am about to say because they think they would never be the one to bubble the form incorrectly, so I will tell you this for the 100th time: if you don't think your grade is accurately reported, do NOT e-mail anyone. Instead, fill out a regrade request form and turn it in to Travis before or after class. If you give her enough information, (in particular your actual version number) she will fix your grade in no time and e-mail to confirm. Note, this is THE ONLY WAY WE DO REGRADES. The end.

7. Some of you who did poorly want to know what to do now. The answer is that you need to start getting ready for the next exam rather than worrying about the last one. For some of you this is a wake-up call that you will need to adopt different study habits in college. For others, you studied a great deal and it didn't pay off. Remember this is pretty close to the first test that most of you are taking in college. Don't despair, just commit yourselves to improving and with the right steps, it will happen. The great thing about this class is that if you finally start to get it, and can prove it on the final, then you can toss out all your previous grades. In other words, ace the final, ace the course.

8. I will begin meeting individually with students by the dozens as soon as I complete the JAMP interviews this week. It will take some time to see everyone who wanted an appointment but please e-mail me if you did poorly so we can set something up. It is really silly to throw away a life goal because you are afraid to come talk to me about doing better.

9. We are starting a new chapter and will explore more sophisticated bonding theories: VSEPR, VB and MO. What these theories do is turn 2-dimensional Lewis structures into 3-dimensional structures from which you can say a lot about molecular properties. There will be a quiz on Chapter 3 on Tuesday, October 14th. The question types for that quiz are:

- Identifying ionic and covalent bonds in polar and non-polar molecules
- VSEPR: Assigning bond angle, hybridization and electronic geometry to a Lewis structure
- VSEPR: Assigning bond angle, hybridization and electronic geometry to a Lewis structure
- VSEPR: Assigning molecular geometry to a Lewis structure
- VSEPR: Assigning polarity to a Lewis structure
- VB: Assigning sigma and pi bonds to a Lewis structure
- VB: Explaining the origin of hybrid orbitals
- VB: Identifying the atomic orbitals that create a sigma or pi bond

10. Worksheet 6 was posted on my website on Sunday. It is perhaps my finest creation as it basically takes you through all the steps of 2-D and 3-D structures of molecules, with stops along the way to identify various properties of the structure. In your spare time you should choose molecules and ions and take them step by step

through the worksheet. Once you get the hang of it, you are in great shape with respect to pretty much all the bonding material in Chapters 2 and 3. In discussion sessions and office hours next week, I want to see a lot of structures drawn. Practice makes perfect, and all.

11. Office hours the rest of this week are in my office.

12. Just to clear up confusion about Thanksgiving week, UT really does have classes from Monday the 24th through Wednesday the 26th. We also really do have a quiz on that Tuesday the 25th. Some professors might be canceling classes and some students might be going home early. Whatever. Free will. But I will have class on the Tuesday and if you choose to not take the quiz it will be one of the two you drop.

13. Public Service Announcements.

Women in Engineering. Are you a girl majoring in engineering? SWE; Society Of Women Engineers invites you to join this year for the opportunity to network with Engineering Companies and become more involved within the school community. There are many exciting events planned for this year. Come to our meeting next Tuesday October 14th in ECJ 1.204 at 6:30 pm. We encourage you to take this opportunity. Hope to see you there!

SA (Queer Students Alliance) hosts Pride Week Oct. 6 - 12

Tuesday, October 7:

~"Intersexing the Discussion: Creating Space for Intersex Bodies" hosted by Transgender Texas in the SSB, Room 3.406 from 5-6pm

~QSA open meeting in the Texas Union, African American Culture Room 4.110 from 6-7pm

Wednesday, October 8

~Coming Out Workshop in the SSB, Room 4.212 from 7-8:30pm

~"Cofee" hosted by Hangout at CAffe Medici, 2222B Guadalupe St. starting at 10pm

Thursday, October 9:

~"Queerflix" hosted by QSA will be showing "HaBuah" (The Bubble) in the Jester East TV lounge at 5:30pm

Friday, October 10:

~"Picnic hosted by HangOut at the Turtle Pond from 11-3pm

~Celebration of "National Coming Out Day" hosted by StandOut at Gregory Plaza from 12-2pm

Sunday, October 12:

~Rainbow Dodgeball hosted by HangOut - TBD

~Hope Not Hate Vigil hosted by Equality Texas at the University Baptist Church at 5pm

14. Poetry corner. I was going to use a happy poem but I decided to be angst-ridden given the current state of the world. So I provide for you now, two of what I believe are the most depressing poems ever written.

First, my second most depressing poem ever:

The Swamp

Bertolt Brecht

I saw many friends and among them
The friend that I love most
Helplessly sink into the swamp
I pass by daily.
And a drowning was not over
In a single morning. Often it took
Weeks. This made it more terrible.
And the memory of our long walks together
About the swamp that already
Had claimed so many.
Helplessly I watched him. Leaning back
Covered with leeches
In the shimmering
Softly moving slime:
Upon the sinking face
The ghastly
Blissful smile.

And second, my first most depressing poem ever—the good thing about this poem is that it is only a re-reading of this poem each year that keeps the rage in me alive. As the bumper sticker says, if you aren't completely appalled, you haven't been paying attention. This poem is for those of you who aren't completely appalled, it is about your hero:

The Unknown Citizen

W. H. Auden

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Installment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace; when there was war, he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation.
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard