

Fall 2008 CH 301 Final Random Musings

1. Sadly, the semester has come to an end. Today in class I will introduce briefly two new concepts and hope to give a big picture review of the course that I hope will tie a lot of things together. Also, I will set off a triple thunderstorm.
2. Quiz 6 results. The average of 65% was solid but suggests that for many of you the concepts had not yet come together (which is why I am so excited that you all spent Thanksgiving studying!!)
3. Evaluations. It is your responsibility as a student to complete course instructor evaluations for every course you take. You should have received an electronic invitation to complete this survey, but if you haven't, you can do so by going to the following web link: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/diia/ecis/> and opening up the survey for CH301. You have until December 5th (this Friday) to complete the survey. Thanks for remembering to do this.
4. Extra credits. If you would like to earn extra credit (up to 2% of your course grade), please go to the musings from Thanksgiving week and do as asked. You have until Friday at 5 pm to earn the extra credit.

<http://courses.cm.utexas.edu/dlaude/ch301/musings/rm112508.pdf>

Things you need to know about Exam 3.

5. In addition to the ChemPortal practice exam, the TAs have provided a practice exam 3 that I have posted on the web under my Worksheet link.
6. On Sunday I gave a review on the 30 question types on Exam 3 and the hand written notes from that session are posted on line at the beginning of the section on lecture notes. I believe the video from the review is also posted.
7. Standard help sessions and academic communities will be held throughout the week. My help sessions are in the classrooms through Wednesday and back in my office Thursday.
8. There is no class on Thursday.
9. Exam 3 will be given on Wednesday evening at from 7:30 till 9:00 pm. The exam will consist of 30 equally weighted questions worth a total of 180 points. The questions are taken from material in Chapters 6 and 7 in the text and resemble in format and content the kinds of questions you saw on quizzes 5 and 6. The 30 exam 3 question types are posted on the random musings link from the Thursday before Thanksgiving.
10. I am forgoing a posting of the normal format and procedures for exam 3 and will remind you that everything is pretty much as it was EXCEPT for a change in one of the examination rooms. Note closely:

Last name	WEL 2.224	A through K
Last name	UTC 2.112A	L through Z

Let me know if you have need for alternate testing as I need to be informed in advance. Also remember that I take a zero tolerance view of students who continue to work after the exam ends.

11. There will be a make-up exam on Sunday evening. The time is to be determined. You do not need to e-mail me requesting to take the make-up but be aware it is reserved for people with legitimate conflicts. There really shouldn't be too many of you in this situation.

12. Some advice as you study for exam 3: Be aware that this test is light on calculations (only about 40% of the test is calculation and most ask you to divide one number into another.) It is, though, heavy on theory, signs, concepts and definitions. In other words, there are a lot of words. Please make sure you can talk the language of thermodynamics in preparing for the test. Can you effortlessly talk about what happens to the state functions during a phase change (heck, do you even know what a state function is?) Can you effortlessly talk about internal energy or spontaneity for common reactions that we have studied? Do you have a sense of the magnitude of the various thermodynamic values we have calculated? Can you distinguish the theories that explain internal energy and entropy in the bulk from statistical thermodynamics which explains things one molecule at a time?

Things You Need to Know About the Final Exam

13. Final Exam. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, from 9 a.m. until noon. The exam will consist of 60 equally weighted multiple-choice questions taken from Chapters 1 through 7. The time limit for the exam is three hours but you should not be as rushed as on regular exams. As I have mentioned before, there can be no make-up or time changes allowed. However I will allow incompletes in cases where a non-academic issue arises. Please let me know about such issues on your gold sheet.

14. The final exam locations are in Welch Hall. Please go to the following rooms based on your last name:

Last name A-M in Welch 2.224 and last name N-Z in Welch 3.502 (the outside classroom)

15. The following distribution of questions will be used for the final:

chapter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
questions	12	8	10	4	6	11	9

The question types for the final exam are posted in the musings at

<http://courses.cm.utexas.edu/dlaude/ch301/musings/rm111108.pdf>

16. Lunches with Dave--Review sessions for the final: There can be no regular help sessions during final exam week--those classrooms are now used for final exams. However I enjoy your companionship so much that I will offer review sessions the three days before the final. During each session I will review, by question type, a subject area from the course as it relates to the final exam:

- Mon Dec 08 12:15- 1:15PM WEL 3.502 Bonding
- Tue Dec 09 12:15- 1:15PM WEL 3.502 Gases, Liquids and Solids
- Wed Dec 10 12:15- 1:15PM WEL 3.502 Thermodynamics

Grading: The Cutoffs

17. Here is a master scoring table for people who don't like calculating percentages. Listed below are the current cutoffs for grades in this class done for each of the grading schemes. Note that there are two ways to earn your grades that depend on whether you did the extra credit or not. These are the number you should be evaluating as you stare at your Quest exam and quiz scores. Don't use Quest's idea of a grade. It is not based on my grading schemes.

	no extra credit submitted			two extra credit submitted—2% reduction		
course grade	exemption (700 points)	cumulative (1000 points)	final (300 points)	exemption (700 points)	cumulative (1000 points)	final (300 points)

A	630	900	270	616	880	264
B	x	800	240	x	780	234
C	x	700	210	x	680	214
D	x	600	180	x	580	184
F	x	<600	<180	x	<580	<184

Grading: Information on Exemptions.

18. When your score for Exam 3 is posted on Thursday morning, the scores for exams 1-3 and quizzes 1 through 6 should be available to you--this should be enough information to determine exemption unless you have grading errors that have resulted in incomplete HW Services scores.

19. To figure out if you are exempt, add together the three exam scores. Then add together your top four out of six quiz scores (everyone gets a 40 for quiz 1). Please don't use all six quizzes in determining your exemption status!!!! If the number you get is above 616 (for two extra credits), above 623 for one extra credit) or above 630 (for no extra credits) then you are exempt. Congratulations.

20. If you are exempt, you will receive an A for the course without taking the final. Period.

21. There are a few special circumstances (people adding the course late or missed quizzes for nonacademic reasons) for which I will allow fewer points to be exempt. Please confirm this with me on the "Things I want Dr. Laude to know" gold sheet you complete today.

22. Some of you are concerned that you may miss the exemption by just a few points. It is possible that I will lower the cutoff a bit but I won't know till all the grades are in. I typically have about 180 students earn exemption and that will be true in this class as well. Please don't hassle me about this and contact me only if you believe there was a grading error in determining your exemption status.

Grading: Information for those taking the cumulative final exam.

23. If you are not exempt, you must take the final exam.

24. Don't worry about which grading scheme I will use when you take the final exam. If the final exam for everything gives you a higher score, I will use that. If the cumulative score with the final gives you a better grade, I will use that instead. Unless you are exempt, there is no grading scheme that doesn't include your final exam score.

25. Don't worry about cutoffs varying from grading scheme to grading scheme. Whatever final cutoff I use for exemption will be used for other grading schemes. For example, if I add another 1% drop for exemption I will drop every other grade cutoff at least that amount.

Grading: Final pleas to make my life easier.

26. I took great pains to devise a thorough grading scheme for this course. It is clearly identified in the syllabus. Read it before you start asking redundant questions. It is what it is. Nonetheless, while I don't curve, I also am pretty flexible at the edges of grades and have been known to drop the cutoff by a percentage point here and there. However, when it is done, it is done. Please let me be. I will not do for a single student what I wouldn't do for everyone, so please do not expect special favors.

27. "Things I want Dr. Laude to know." Life is complicated sometimes and many of you may want me to know something about grades and this class. So take the time to fill out the gold form and return it to me

before the end of class today. On it let me know about exceptions I am making for you with respect to grading, whether it be exemption from quizzes or exams. This is the opportunity to let me know about any non-academic issues that might warrant an incomplete or some other form of grade assignment. I will handle each handout returned to me individually and privately. Look for a return e-mail from me about such matters.

28. By all means contact Travis about grading errors as soon as possible. With about 5,000 grades for a course there are certain to be some errors. Travis will e-mail the class with times during dead days when he will be available to fix grading messes. For those of you seeking to be exempt, you need to take care of these things right away. Make sure you bring a regrade request form to Travis so he can easily remedy your concerns. And once grades are posted, if you believe there has been an error, please e-mail me at once—recording the regrades for 500 students is rarely flawless.

29. I have met individually with over 100 of you to discuss how you can improve in this class. Let me encourage you to put your fears aside and fight hard for the grade you want. A good grade on the final is within the grasp of anyone who makes the commitment to obtain it. Fight for it.

30. You are actually a very good class (at least if the first two exams are any indication) so I will continue to assign the same grade distribution as I have in the past and perhaps even improve them if your thermodynamics exam results are good. Listed below are my typical course averages and I expect the same from this group as I work toward the day that everyone learns the material well enough to earn an A.

200 As

180 Bs

80 Cs

30 Ds

20 Fs (most of whom did not complete the course and have dropped by now).

31. A last poetry corner. I'm real big on giving. Here is a thought on Giving from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* Whether you know it now or not, in this life it is best to be known for a generous heart.

Then said a rich man, "Speak to us of Giving."

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard
for fear you may need them tomorrow?

And tomorrow, what shall tomorrow bring to the overprudent dog
burying bones in the trackless sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city?

And what is fear of need but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much that they have; and they give it for recognition and their hidden
desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy,
nor give with mindfulness of virtue;

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Though the hands of such as these God speaks,

and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.