

CH 302 Random Musings, Spring 2009, Top of the First (January 22, 2009)

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 eight 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 six 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. Then there is Nate Dog, who is not named after Nate Dogg, the rapper (who has two gs in his name.) The Nate Dog that is my son, is currently a grumpy punk, and by that I mean a four year old—I am looking forward to the better days with him that are sure to come. Then there is Andrew, who is four months old, doesn't have a nickname, and seems perfectly content to smile at people and wear a shocked look when the camera is turned on him—my fondest hope is that he will be my first normal kid after six tries. Here they all are, stuffing a turkey.



3. Getting into my class. I can't have any more students in class than the seat count and currently I am full. But there are certain to be drops over the next week as students who do not meet pre-reqs leave. So if you are on the wait list with Judy, and continue to show up to class, you will almost certainly be added before the 12th class day. But I need to know you are serious about the course, and being here daily before you are added is proof of that.

4. Information on the Electronic Textbook. The ChemPortal is all set for the spring. For about 440 of you who return from the fall, there should be no changes in how you access the book and beginning this weekend you will start receiving e-mail from me through the textbook web site and will be able to work a practice quiz that I write and post there.

For the new students purchasing the textbook for just the spring semester, the instructions on purchasing the Portal are at an adjacent link in the musings. I was able to arrange a deal for you to get the e-Book at half price. The way it will work, you pay the 90 for a full subscription up front and then you will receive a \$45 rebate from them since you are only using the textbook for half the year. Please come down front after class and sign a sheet indicating you are signing up for just this semester and have purchased the Portal.

5. 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. The big plus for Atkins is that I create practice quizzes and exams on the ChemPortal web site as well as correspond by e-mail with the class through the Portal. You will lose out on those advantages if you don’t purchase the Portal.

6. My course packets, with 480 pages of bound material, should be ready for sale next Thursday right after the quiz. The cost is \$25. I am not allowed to sell them personally, so the Natural Sciences Council will be doing it, and as I mentioned, will be using the modest profit (about \$10 per course packet) to contribute to the UT scholarship fund. The bound course packet will include:

- 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 trying to download and printed them yourself. If you are not sure about the purchase, ask around, most of you will find the course packet to be the most important resource for this class.

7. I screwed up the exam dates in the syllabus—for one thing the first exam has to be on a Wednesday night (February 18th) because that is the only day the rooms were available. Also, there was an inconsistency between exam times in the syllabus in a couple of places. It is now fixed on line and will be correct in the course packet you purchase.

8 Exam conflicts: 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. Those of you e-mailing with concern about exam conflicts should chill--one thing you will learn about this course is that we are quite accommodating. If you have a conflict with a class, lab, other exam, work, personal needs, etc., you can always take the make-up the following Sunday evening.

9. Your first quiz is next Thursday, one week from today and will cover the material in the first three lectures with representative problems as found on Worksheet 2. The question types for Quiz 1 are as follows:

From Lecture 1:

- Qualitative vapor pressure question.
- Clausius-Clapeyron calculation

From Lecture 2:

- Thermodynamic signs and phase changes (like sign of ΔH or ΔS going from s \rightarrow g)
- Interpreting phase diagrams
- Calculating ΔH for a substance as T changes across various phase

From Lecture 3:

- Dissolving salts in water
- Dissolving gases in water
- Ranking miscibility and solubility in liquids

10. For those new to this class, quizzes are used instead of homework as my way of forcing you to keep up with the material. 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.
- 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.

11. I will be coordinating this course with Dave Vandembout's CH 302 that meets 9 am 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/dvandembout/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 WEL 2.224	Discussion section	Dave Laude
Tuesday 1 to 2 pm	WCH 2.222 or JGB 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 PHR 2.116	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	Yuxuan Wang
Sunday 7:30 to 9:30 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Yuxuan Wang
Monday 7 to 8 pm	LLB 103	Discussion section	Vanessa Williams
Monday 8 to 10 pm	Kinsolving dining hall	Academic community	Vanessa Williams
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	Daniel Hawkins
Wednesday 7:30 to 9:30 pm	Jester Dining Hall	Academic community	Daniel Hawkins

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...