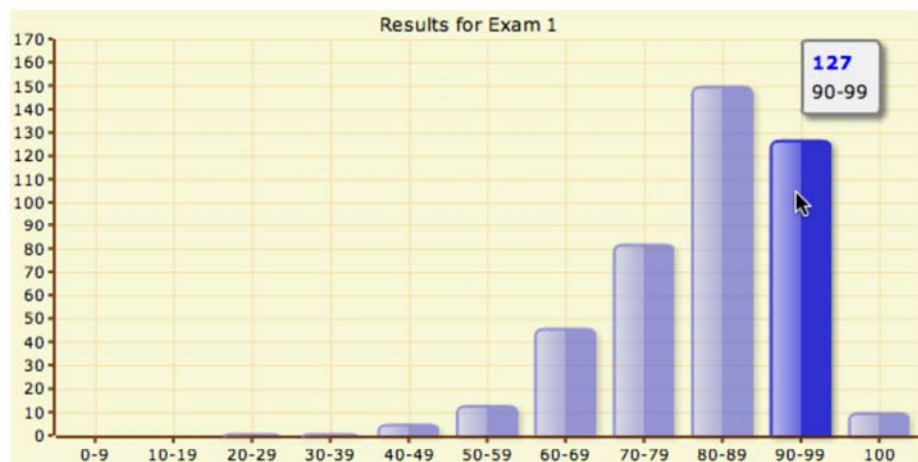


CH302 Random Musings March 2, 2010

1. As mentioned, the average on the second exam was a very fine 81. There were a couple problems killed because of mis-programming, but they fell in the “easy” category (like LeChatelier) and were likely to have been answered by 90% of the students, so the score is about right. Congratulations for meeting the TAs expectations, and I hang my head in shame at having doubted you. I did show your results, and the kinds of calculator-free questions you were able to do, to a math professor, who also expressed shock at what you did, and wanted to know why you don't try as hard on your math tests.



	with	w/o zeroes
Median	80%	83.33%
Average	70.01%	81.28%
Count	505	435
Standard Deviation	54.36	21.52

2. There is a Quiz 3 the Tuesday before Spring Break. The question types for that quiz are:

- identifying buffers (after neutralization)
- simple buffer calculation
- buffer neutralization calculation
- strong acid/strong base titration calculation
- strong vs weak titration calculation (to buffer)
- strong vs weak titration calculation (to equivalence point)
- approximations in acid base calculations
- setting up complex equilibria calculations (mass and charge balance)

3. The material on acids and bases comes to an end next week. Be careful what you wish for—next week we start electrochemistry and it will make you yearn for the days I put pictures of a giant red H^+ on the board.

4. Materials to be posted. I have placed a slew of worksheets on the web to help you with acid/base chemistry preparation. Of particular interest:

- Here is a good place to start in learning the basics of acid base calculations:
<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws5s09.pdf>
- A wonderful worksheet on polyprotic acid calculations:
<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws7s08.pdf>
- A worksheet on how to do complex equilibria:

<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws8s08.pdf>

- Two worksheets that let me at least feel like we tried to interest you in learning to identify acids and bases when you see their names or structures:

<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws5adds08.pdf>

and

<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws6adds09.pdf>

- A worksheet that will provide you with a collection of equilibrium problems that we expect you to be able to do by the time you take the second exam. This worksheet will not be for the faint of heart and should only be tackled when you finally “get it.” But do understand that these are the kinds of questions you will see on Exam 2.

<http://laude.cm.utexas.edu/courses/ch302/ws6s09.pdf>

5. Material to be posted:

- A practice quiz 3 will be posted in the ChemPortal on Saturday.
- A practice quiz 3 will be posted by the TAs on Sunday.

6. I am not even going to bother posting electrochemistry material until after the break.

7. For those of you planning to study over spring break, I will have the 30 question types from exam 2 ready for you next Thursday.

8. I have promised that there will be three extra credit opportunities this semester that will permit you to lower the cut scores for grades by up to three percent (one percent for each extra credit submitted.) Here is the first one.

Extra Credit 1. To earn 1% of your course grade that you can add to your point totals for the semester, complete the assignment below and follow the specific instructions given. This EC can be used to calculate exemptions. Depending on your method of grading, 1% will be worth 7 points for exemption, 10 points for overall course grade or 3 points if the final counts for everything.

Procedure:

- Complete the assignment below.
- Write it up (probably 100 words or so, but write as much as you want to tell the story.
- Submit it to my e-mail address: dalaude@mail.utexas.edu
- IMPORTANT. You must title the extra credit: EC1s10 Spring Break
- (If you do not use this EXACT subject you will not be filtered into the file from which I assign extra credit.)
- Due Date: Tuesday, March 30 at 11:59 pm.. I am going to be strict about the deadline this semester. You will receive an e-mail reminder over the break and one in the musings afterward.

Extra Credit Assignment:

During spring break I want you to teach a science-hater something interesting about chemistry that you learned in this class. To get the points, the person you teach has to say to you, “gee, I had no idea chemistry was that interesting” when you have finished (you can make them say it even if they don’t mean it.). You can choose what you teach but it should be something of interest and utility that you have learned from your experiences with chemical and physical equilibria.

9. Public Service Announcements:

- Explore UT. This weekend is UT's annual open house. Many hundreds of free activities, performances and demonstrations will allow visitors to unravel scientific mysteries, unleash creative energies and uncover the wealth of educational opportunity at the University. If by some chance you wake up on Saturday before nightfall, and wander across campus, you will find yourself in the middle of a million people exploring UT (hence the name.) Natural Sciences is well represented along Speedway in front of Welch and in CNS buildings For example, I will be offering chemistry circuses at noon and 1 pm in which the demos I do in class are offered up to the general public.
- I have been asked to mention that the SG elections are occurring and that you should go vote. It is also the case that state-wide elections are being held today and you should know that voting is a good.

7. Poetry Corner. I promise that after this week, and for the rest of the semester, we will have silly, happy, positive poetry. But not this week. This week, more hate poetry. And of course, who better to cap things off than Sylvia Plath, who let her husband, British Poet laureate Ted Hughes, know just exactly how much she hated him by committing suicide.



The Rabbit Catcher

It was a place of force—
The wind gagging my mouth with my own blown hair,
Tearing off my voice, and the sea
Blinding me with its lights, the lives of the dead
Unreeling in it, spreading like oil.

I tasted the malignity of the gorse,
Its black spikes,
The extreme unction of its yellow candle-flowers.
They had an efficiency, a great beauty,
And were extravagant, like torture.

There was only one place to get to.
Simmering, perfumed,
The paths narrowed into the hollow.
And the snares almost effaced themselves—
Zeros, shutting on nothing,
Set close, like birth pangs.
The absence of shrieks
Made a hole in the hot day, a vacancy.
The glassy light was a clear wall,
The thickets quiet.

I felt a still busyness, an intent.
I felt hands round a tea mug, dull, blunt,

Ringing the white china.
How they awaited him, those little deaths!
They waited like sweethearts. They excited him.

And we, too, had a relationship—
Tight wires between us,
Pegs too deep to uproot, and a mind like a ring
Sliding shut on some quick thing,
The constriction killing me also.

