

Brief Musings with Exam 2 information—April 1, 2010

(I am too old for April Fool's jokes, especially since anything I might want to do would get me sued, so trust that everything in these musings is the real deal.)

0. The good that comes from the bad. Ever since I had the worst spring break of my life, I have been in an incredibly good mood—I don't even feel like writing an angry letter to a certain airline asking for compensation, and instead I watch birds flying and think about how nice it is outside. I caught a few minutes of "To Sir With Love" this weekend and have now spent the last couple days walking around singing the song of the same name that Lulu first recorded—"To Sir With Love" was one of the big three movies of 1967 that made Sidney Poitier the number one box office draw of 1967, a pretty staggering accomplishment in a country torn by racial strife. Poitier also did "In the Heat of the Night" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Sadly, complicating pressures from various factions pushed him away from acting over the next few years and he turned to directing in the 1970s and 80s. By the way, Lulu was on American Idol in 2007 to sing "To Sir With Love" and honestly looked better than she did in 1967. Anyway, "To Sir With Love" is the movie that made me want to be a teacher, and in case you want to hear an old person say something cliché, they don't make movies like "To Sir With Love" any more.

1. There is a second exam coming up tonight. We have been preparing for this exam since spring break, with all trimmings, from reviews to worksheets to practice exams. Attendance at study and discussion sections has been good and I have a real confidence that we will have our highest scores ever on a CH302 exam 2. The

Be aware that while you have 2 hours to take the exam, the truth is that the calculations are so modest, and the alternative strategies for problem solving are so great, that many of you will finish in far less time. All of you should appreciate that in many cases, cranking through the 7 steps for solving acid base problems is not the only way to problem solve. Understanding acid base equilibrium concepts and the approximations and estimations I have drilled into you should be a better, or at least, a companion strategy.

There is no format and procedure sheet for this exam, you know the drill—instead, here are a few highlights:

- The exam will be tonight from 7:30 till 9:30 pm. You get 120 minutes sharp.
- Exam location: Last name **A-K**, WEL 2.224. Last name **L-Z**, BUR 106
- You will be given a sheet of equations and constants and a periodic table.
- A make-up exam will be given on Monday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in Welch 1.308 for those with conflicts. Anyone can take the make-up.

2. Remember to be getting your extra credit number one in by Sunday night. I will provide extra credits 2 and 3 in the musings next Tuesday. Too many of you are uncertain that I have received your extra credit and have e-mailed for confirmation. I am not sure you appreciate that the same uncertainty that clouds your ability to know that I received the extra credit also clouds your ability to send and receive a return e-mail that confirms that you received credit. Now take that concern and multiply it by my having to send 1500 e-mails confirming that all the extra credits were received (by the way, I will send a follow-up e-mail because I will be concerned that you didn't receive my e-mail confirming that you e-mailed confirming that you received extra credit.....)

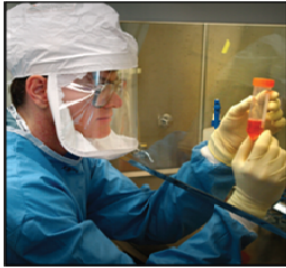
I hope you get my point. Anyway, worry not. At the end of the semester I have a way of checking that you received credit, and if not, you can send me another copy.

3. Painful as this may be, I will give my lecture on Electrochemistry today and be moving on to Kinetics next week. So while you have been spared learning EC for the exam tonight, you will have to find a time in there somewhere to get it learned. I will e-mail some good worksheets to get you started this weekend. A quiz on electrochemistry will be given on April 15th.

4. Proof that I only hire the best students as TAs—our very own Miranda Colletta was just announced as a winner of a Goldwater Scholarship, which is the most prestigious national award given to undergraduate science and engineering researchers.

5. Public Service Announcements.

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Wednesday April 7 from 12 pm - 8:00 pm in the TEXAS UNION

KICK OFF LUNCHEON 12 pm (Quadrangle Room)

Free Lunch! Italian Sub Sandwiches for the first 250 students *Global Health Equals Global Prosperity*: Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, MD, MPH

TWELVE EXCITING PRESENTATIONS! 1 pm - 5 pm (3rd Floor)

Hot Topics in Public Health

KEYNOTE SESSION 5 pm - 6:30 pm (Ballroom)

Smallpox: The Death Of A Disease: Dr. D. A. Henderson MD, MPH

Free Pizza!

EXHIBIT HALL 12 pm - 5 pm; 6:30pm - 7:30pm (Ballroom)

Come early and stay late to learn about graduate opportunities, fellowships, public health careers and more!

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**ultimate frisbee
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april 11, 2010

11AM-4PM
@ 51st and guadalupe

5 players per team + 1 alternate

register @ prathamut.org

5. Poetry corner. Spring is here—I saw red buds in the redbuds and as a now happy soul, I provide you with more happy spring poetry than cynical spring poetry (2 to 1 joyous to mean.)

Spring --Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as spring--
When weed in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightening to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue: that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling
What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden--Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord and sour with sinning.
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Spring -- Edna St. Vincent Millay

To what purpose, April, do you return again?
Beauty is not enough,
You can no longer quiet me with the redness
Of little leaves opening stickily,
I know what I know,
The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
The spikes of the crocus,
The smell of earth is good,
It is apparent that there is no death.
But what does that signify?
Not only underground are the brains of men
Eaten by maggots,
Life in itself
Is nothing,
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.
It is not enough that yearly,
Down the hill,
April, Come like an idiot, babbling and strewing
flowers

Finally,

Written below is one of the most famously challenging poems ever written, and one that is particularly appropriate around Easter, by my favorite poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins. This guy gave us sprung rhythm, alliteration, and just a really neat way of making the words in the poem sound like what he is describing. People write entire books on this one poem. I still vividly remember the all-nighter during which I had to write a paper on this poem. It really hurt my brain.

The Windhover--Gerard Manley Hopkins

I CAUGHT this morning morning's minion, kingdom
of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird, -- the achieve of; the mastery of the thing!
Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!
No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermillion.

- Gerard Manley Hopkins (1845-1889)

Composed in 1877, Published in 1918