

CH 302--Random Musings, Bottom of the Ninth for Spring 2010

1. Sadly, the semester has come to an end. I have actually come to know so many of your faces, if not your names, and will remember those faces kindly. This is the class where I tried out calculator free exams and you stepped up and took it on without complaint. Thank you for that--and to top it off, the class still had the highest average of any class I have every had to date. Good for you.

Today in class I will briefly cover the material from catalysts and batteries, review things to think about for the exam tonight, hand out your very own brass penny, and review issues related to examinations and final grades, and then set off the first ever quadruple thunderstorm.

2. 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 CH302 unique number 52455. You have until 5/7/2007 (this Friday) to complete the survey. Thanks for remembering to do this.

3. I have the good fortune of being able to handpick my TAs, and I do a pretty great job of it. Mostly being freshmen, you will not have the experience yet to know that this is about as good as it gets. I can't thank them enough for their efforts—you will be lucky to see something like this again from TAs at UT.

4. Reprinted below are the grading cutoffs for the course. There are both the original cutoffs and the new cutoffs that apply IF you turn in all your extra credits. The weight of the extra credit depends on the grading scheme but corresponds to 1% of the grade for each extra credit handed in. Do not worry about which of these grading schemes applies to you. I will assign the one that best benefits you.

Grading: The Cutoffs

5. 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 three ways to earn your grades, and depending on whether you did the extra credit, two sets of cutoffs for those three grading schemes. These are the number you should be evaluating as you stare at your Quest test and quiz scores. Don't use Quest's idea of a grade. It is not based on my grading schemes.

course grade	no extra credit submitted			three extra credit submitted—3% reduction		
	exemption (700 points)	cumulative (1000 points)	final (300 points)	exemption (700 points)	cumulative (1000 points)	final (300 points)
A	651	930	279	630	900	270
A-	630	900	270	609	870	261
B+		870	261		830	249
B		830	249		800	240
B-		800	240		770	231
C+		770	231		730	219
C		730	219		700	210
C-		700	210		670	201
D		<700	<210		<670	<201
F		<600	<180		<570	<171

6. Extra credit points. You have had the chance to 3% back on your grade from extra credit. There will certainly be some errors in recording your extra credit what with the manual recording process so please do not panic if points are missing. I will reconcile what I have for your totals versus what you say you have done the green sheet you will turn in today. If there is a contradiction, I will e-mail you to confirm. I need these extra credits to determine exemption, so please get them in by Saturday at 3 am.

7. If you are missing Quest scores or believe that they are in error, it is your job to contact Travis at once. Travis will send me the information to post about how to get errors remedied and it is up to you to follow through. We really want to make it possible to assign exemption cutoffs accurately and as soon as possible. So please get on this.

8. By Saturday around 8 am I will have determined whether the exemption cutoffs will vary from the cutoffs posted above. Remember that the Quest totals DO NOT reflect my grading scheme so ignore the grades it assigns and instead simply add up your three exams and your four best quizzes, then compare it to the column based on whether you did the extra credits.

9. You have been a very fine class and the grades will reflect this. Expect to see about 150 exemptions and the final overall grade distribution:

200 As

170 Bs

90 Cs

30 Ds

10 Fs (most of whom did not complete the course).

10. Telling me what I should know. In a class of 500, it is possible I will make mistakes or that I will not find out things you want me to know. So please fill out the green form, "Things I want Dr. Laude to know", if there is anything of an academic or non academic nature that will assist me in deciding your grade. I will respond to each of these individual so take the opportunity seriously. For example, if you and I have made some kind of arrangement about make-ups, missing quizzes, incompletes, or something significant has come up this semester, please write it down and turn it in.

11. A request for EVERYONE about final grades: 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. Be aware that I will not do for a single student what I wouldn't do for everyone, so please do not expect special favors.

Things you need to know about Exam 3.

12. Travis and I have provided practice exam 3s that I have posted on the web.

13. On Monday I gave a review on the 35 question types on Exam 3 and the hand written notes from that session are posted on line.

14. Exam 3 will be given tonight from 7:30 till 9:30. The exam will consist of 35 equally weighted questions worth a total of 210 points. The list of question types has been posted twice in previous musings.

15. I am forgoing a posting of the normal format and procedures for exam 3 and remind you that the usual exam rules apply. Your location for the exam is as follows:

Last name A-K, WEL 2.224.

Last name L-Z, BUR106

16. There will be a make-up exam on Sunday night in Welch 2.224 from 7 until 9 pm. I have relaxed the conditions for taking this makeup, so take it if you want, and don't e-mail to let me know—just know that if you show up for tonight's exam, you will have to take it. Also, later this evening I will post with my lecture notes a collection of revised hints for the main group chemistry so that the make-up is fair. The rest of the review notes are essentially the same.

17. Some advice as you study for exam 3: Be aware that this test is light on calculations (only about 50% of the test) and heavy memorizing stuff, which is the nature of an exam filled with descriptive chemistry. Like it or not, those of you who really understand and recall my notes on organic nomenclature, biomolecules, main group chemistry and catalysts will breeze through this material and it will be a short test. It is definitely a "you know it or you don't" experience for many of these problems. And quizzes 5 and 6 are definitely a barometer for much of the kinetics and electrochemistry. Nothing will be surprising on the exam though there will be some little things that will get you if you aren't cautious and thorough.

Things You Need to Know About Exemption

18. In order to be exempt from the final you must have a cumulative total that is 90% of the 700 points derived from 3 exams and your four best quizzes. However I will allow up to 3% extra credit points from 3 extra credit chances so that technically a combined score as low as 609 (without the extra credits) can be exempt (this number may go down—I will let you know by Friday at midnight.)

18. If you are exempt, you will receive an A or A- for the course without taking the final. Of course, some of you may be concerned about taking an A- exemption rather than an A exemption. All I can say is that you can take the final with an A- and you will get no score lower than an A- for the course, but it will be your decision whether to try for the A.

19. There are a few special circumstances (people adding the course late or missed quizzes for nonacademic reasons) for which I will use a different scoring system. Please confirm this with me on the "Things I want Dr. Laude to know" sheet you complete today.

20. It is up to you to make sure that the totals you think you received correspond to exemption. Don't make assumptions. If it is close, or you are confused about the grading, e-mail me. Pity the fool who studies for and take the final exam when he or she was exempt (this happens to someone every year.) Don't let this be you.

Information for those taking the cumulative final exam.

21. Final Exam. The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until noon. The exam will consist of 60 equally weighted multiple-choice questions that I have listed twice in previous musings. 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 green sheet.

22. The final exam locations are in Welch Hall. Please go to the following rooms based on your last name:
Last name K-Z in Welch 2.224 Last name A-J in Welch 1.316

23. Lunches with Dave—review for the final exam: 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:

- Wednesday 5/12 Welch 3.502 from noon to 1 p.m. Questions from exam 1
- Thursday 5/13 Welch 3.502 from noon to 1 p.m. Questions from exam 2
- Friday 5/14 Welch 3.502 from noon to 1 p.m. Questions from exam 3

24. Additional grading information for those taking the final exam:

- Don't worry about which grading scheme I will use. 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.
- Don't worry about cutoffs varying from grading scheme to grading scheme. Across the board I am giving back 3% on every grade cutoff as was described in the
- I will have seen almost 100 people since spring break about doing well on the final. Let me encourage you to do what I have suggested so you can greatly improve your grade for the course. Many of you will see a profound change in how you have been performing in this class—last fall 40 students aced the final after having Cs, Ds and Fs. This could be you.

25. And as always, a last poetry corner 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.