Overview

Instructor: David Farrelly, ML153, 797-1608

Email: david.farrelly@usu.edu (please put CHEM3060 somewhere in subject header) or use Course Mail.

Time and Location: MWF 9:30am - 10:20am, Merrill-Cazier Library 405.

Office Hours: Monday 11:30 - 12:20
Wednesday 10:30 - 11:20  Drop in anytime (preferred) or by appointment.
Friday 11:30 - 12:20.

Textbook: Thermodynamics, Statistical Thermodynamics and Kinetics by Thomas Engel and Philip Reid (Pearson). Any edition (or any variant including Physical Chemistry by the same authors).

Material: Chapters 1 - 11, 16-19 (selected parts of the last few chapters)

Grading: There will be weekly 15-minute quizzes on Mondays, graded problem sets (see later for details), three in-class midterm exams and a take-home Open World final which will consist of several longer, homework-like, problems. These will count toward the grade as follows.

Assignments 10% (quizzes) + 10% (homeworks) = 20%
3 × Midterms 3 × 15% = 45%
Final 35%.

Final grades will be assigned based on the actual distribution of scores obtained by the class rather than being based on predetermined cutoffs.

Exams: The dates for the midterm exams will be decided in class. The final will be a take-home Open World test and its due date will be decided in class.

Mathematics: Physical chemistry requires an ability to use mathematical techniques. It is strongly suggested - but not required - that you obtain a book with a title similar to: Mathematics for the Physical Sciences. Examples include Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers by McQuarrie and Applied Mathematics for Physical Chemistry by Barrante. McQuarrie’s book is excellent and much more thorough than Barrante but it is also quite a bit more expensive.

Assignments and Quizzes

Quizzes

There will be a 15 min quiz every Monday (with occasional exceptions) which will start at around 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at around 9:45 a.m.

1. Quizzes will consist of five short questions each of which will be graded 0, 1 or 2. The material will be anything covered up to that point in the semester - including homework assignments, prior quizzes and prior exams.

2. Quizzes must be submitted in an Examination Blue Books.

3. If you miss a quiz for any reason then make arrangements with me to make it up at my discretion.

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1In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation in this course.
Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be assigned roughly every week and their due date will be announced in advance. However, ONLY one problem out of the problem set will be handed in for grading. The particular problem will be announced in class on the due date without previous notice. If you miss that class I will ask you to hand in a different problem (in person) within two days (you won’t know which problem until you are actually ready to hand in your homework). The Final exam will be modeled partly on the Homework assignments.

You may work problem sets together and I will arrange some times when you can work problems in the room next to my office to facilitate asking questions. The problem sets are designed to be challenging.

**Important:** If you fail to hand in a problem within two days of the due date you will score 0 on that problem set. However, to have future problem sets graded you will still have to hand in any missed problems before (or at) the next due date. I will make exceptions for emergencies etc. at my discretion.

**Very Important:** Homework assignments should be neat with all steps in the derivation/solution explained. I will make a copy of, and then return any assignments that are not legible or that lack short explanations of what you’re doing with an NG grade – you will have 2 business days to submit a legible version which should lead to the same answer as the unacceptable original!

Office Hours

You can ask anything about lectures, homeworks, quizzes etc. If you don’t understand something but don’t know what to ask then that is acceptable too. You are very welcome and encouraged to come individually or with other members of the class in a small group whenever you want. Do not wait for regular office hours if you have a question. But please understand if, on occasion, I cannot deal with you on the spot. I prefer to be very informal with office visits so don’t hesitate to knock HARD on my door (which I tend to keep closed because there is heavy traffic in the hallway).

Exams

The midterms will be in-class. The Final will be open-world: that is, you can use any resource you like except for interactive communication with other people (including email etc). Missed exams will score 0 unless you can provide a documented and acceptable reason – e.g., medical emergencies, etc. Dates of exams will be decided by mutual agreement in class.

Drop Dates

See the USU Fall 2013 Schedule of Classes (SoC) for all official dates.

Physical Chemistry Learning Objectives

1. Apply the basic concepts of calculus to concepts in chemistry.
2. Manipulate the gas laws to describe real and ideal gas behavior.
3. Discuss the Three Laws of Thermodynamics and their development.
4. Use the Maxwell equations and other thermodynamic relations to compute thermodynamic quantities from thermodynamic data tables.
5. Be able to derive relationships between thermodynamic quantities.
6. Interpret phase diagrams and discuss phase equilibria in terms of chemical potential.
7. Explain the origin of Keq and its relation to fugacity and activity; apply these concepts to ideal and real solutions of electrolytes and non-electrolytes and to colligative properties.
8. Apply the principles of electrochemistry to conductance, voltaic, and electrolytic systems.
9. Provide a physical basis for Debye-Huckel theory.
10. List the methods for arriving at a plausible mechanism and/or rate law based on kinetic information.
11. Apply the steady-state hypothesis to obtain rate equations.
12. Explain the basic principles of photochemical and radiation-chemical reactions.

More general goals of the physical chemistry program are that the student is able to:
1. Demonstrate competency in written and oral communication including using mathematics.
2. Relate the microscopic and macroscopic properties of matter to each other.
3. Apply thermodynamic, kinetic and quantum methods and concepts to all areas of chemistry and biochemistry.
4. Explain what the main areas of research in physical chemistry are and why research is being done in these areas.
5. Make either oral or written criticisms of research articles in physical chemistry.
6. Design real or gedanken experiments or simulations to test hypotheses.

Assessment

In order to gauge the effectiveness of the Chemistry 3060 course, several different methods of Gain Score Analysis will be employed. A gain score is a measurement of how much a student’s capability has (hopefully) increased from the beginning of a class and the completion of the course. One measurement is the comparison of the performance on weekly quizzes and to the performance on the midterm exams. Another measurement is how the midterm exam scores compare to the comprehensive final exam grade. Throughout the semester, embedded questions will be presented. These kind of questions emphasize the above-mentioned Learning Objectives and help us assess the overall quality of the course.