

CHM4411 - Physical Chemistry: Thermochemistry and Kinetics

Instructor: Prof. John F. Stanton (NPB 2336)

Office Hours: T 3-5, W 5-7 (in person, or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Joshua Grunden

Office Hours: Grunden, X X-X, XXXX

Suggested Textbook: P.W. Atkins *Physical Chemistry*

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Material
Fundamental Theory of Thermodynamics		
I	Aug 25 [†]	Energy concepts, simple systems, and a profound fundamental truth
II	Aug 30, Sep 1	Equations of state and thermodynamic variables
III	Sep 6 [†] , 8 [‡]	First law: heat, work and energy conservation
IV	Sep 13, 15	More on the first law
V	Sep 20 ^{†‡} , 22*	Entropy and the second law (quite interesting)
VI	Sep 27, 29	More on the second law
VII	Oct 4 ^{†‡} , 6	Yet more on the second law, and the “third law”
Applications of the Fundamentals		
VIII	Oct 11, 13	Clapeyron Equation and Phase Equilibria
IX	Oct 18 ^{†‡} , 20	Solutions and multicomponent phase equilibria
X	Oct 25, 27*	More on solutions, and colligative properties
XI	Nov 1 ^{†‡} , 3	Chemical equilibrium, which you already know
XII	Nov 8, 10	Thermo meets quantum: an introduction to statistical thermodynamics
Likely Extra Topics		
XIII	Nov 15 ^{†‡} , 17*	Some interesting things about chemical reactions
XIV	Nov 23	Introduction to kinetic principles
XV	Nov 30 [†] , Dec 2	The Michaelis-Menton model of enzyme kinetics
XVI	Dec 6*	Final exam

† - Homework assignments will be passed out.

‡ - Homework assignments will be collected.

* - Hour examination will be administered.

Scope of Material

CHM4411 is a first course in physical chemistry, emphasizing the (very important) subject of thermodynamics. After studying the fundamental principles of the field, concepts will be applied to processes involving gases and condensed phases as well as to the treatment of reactive systems. At various points during the semester, some aspects of chemical rate theory, statistical thermodynamics and quantum mechanics will be presented. The purpose of introducing these subjects is largely to familiarize students with basic ideas that will be encountered in future physical chemistry classes, and to underscore the importance of a wide array of physics in understanding molecular processes.

Homework

Aside from the first homework set, which will be assigned on the first day of class (a Thursday), all homework problems will be assigned on Tuesdays of odd-numbered weeks throughout the semester¹, and all are due *at the beginning of class* two weeks later. For each problem set, students will be responsible for all lecture material from (roughly) the two weeks prior to the week that the assignment is due in class. As an example, the problems assigned on the Tuesday of Week V will be due in class on the Tuesday of Week VII, and will mostly cover material from Weeks V, VI and VII. Solution sets will be posted on Piazza shortly after the homeworks are turned in.

Examinations

There will be three in-class hour examinations given during the semester, and the course will conclude with a comprehensive in-class final examination on December 6, 2021. For the most part, hour exams will focus on material covered since the previous exam. However, the nature of subject is such that *each exam is effectively comprehensive* (the fundamentals learned early in the course will be used throughout the term). Consequently – for better or worse – all of the exams are something like a “final” in the sense that you can’t just forget what you learned in September when you take the exam in November. All examinations – including the final – *are of the open-book, open-note variety, but don’t equate this with “easy”!!*

Take note of the exam dates *now* and plan things such as medical school interviews accordingly. I rarely give make-up exams, and do so only for very good reasons (medical emergencies, death of relatives, religious holidays *etc.*).

Class Website

The class website is hosted on [Piazza](#), from which you likely have obtained this syllabus. In addition to posting notes, homework and exam solutions, and so on, piazza is also an extremely useful resource for asking questions outside of class and/or office hours. This system has been quite effective and popular since I started to use it about ten years ago, and you are encouraged to answer the questions of your classmates if you are able. The TAs and I will also answer questions in a time frame ranging from “right away” to a few days, but all of you are encouraged to help each other and post answers if you think that they are correct. Both the TAs and I will monitor the goings on, and will intercede with corrections when and if warranted.

¹Some homeworks will be available on piazza before these days. For example, the first homework set has been posted already.

Grading Policy

The basis for grades in CHM 4411 will be performance on the hour exams, the final exam and the homework assignments. Only the five highest homework scores will be counted. The distribution of points is as follows:

Homework	200
Hour Exam I	200
Hour Exam II	200
Hour Exam III	200
Final Exam	200
Total	1000

Generally, the overall class median (the score for which an equal number of students are above and below) serves as the dividing line between the A,B range and the C,D,E range. The median tends to be somewhere in the range 700-750. I tend to give more B's and C's than anything else; A's are reserved for the students who perform significantly better than average, and D's are reserved for those who perform significantly worse than average. It takes a truly determined and motivated student to fail this course. If you take all of the exams and receive at least 10 (out of a possible 40) points on all seven homeworks, you are guaranteed to receive at least a D in the class, although it is hard (and perhaps impossible) to recall a student who satisfied these criteria and did not get at least a C. However, and in addition to the above, I will guarantee a B grade to any student that earns more than 750 points in the course.

Counseling

The University of Florida provides counseling services for students, staff, and faculty. See [this link](#) or call (352) 392-1575 during regular service hours (8am - 5pm). For other hours or on weekends call the Alachua County Crisis Center (264-6789). Students may also call the clinician on-call at Student Mental Health for phone callback and consultation at (352) 392-1171.

Honor Code

This class will operate under the policies of the student honor code, which can be found [here](#). The students, instructor, and TAs are honor-bound to comply with the Honors Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).