

Chem 541 syllabus
Physical Chemistry
Spring 2013

Instructor: Lee Sunderlin Office Hours: MWF 10-11 in LaT 327 or 331 (No office hours first working Monday each month for Graduate Council Meeting)
Phone: 753-6870 e-mail: sunder@niu.edu

Text: Physical Chemistry, 6th edition (Levine)

Chem 540 and 541 cover physical chemistry: Chem 540 concentrates on thermodynamics, while Chem 541 covers kinetics and quantum mechanics. Chem 541 will cover Chapters 14-23, although most of chapters 14, 15, and 21-23 will be skimmed.

There will be four tests, each covering 2-3 chapters. The exact cutoff for the test material will be noted on Tuesday before each test.

Test 1	Feb 8	100 pts
Test 2	Mar 8	100 pts
Test 3	Apr 12	100 pts
Final	May 8 (Wed 10 AM)	100 pts plus 100 pts cumulative

The tests are worth 100 points (the final is counted as two 100 point tests). In addition, there will be homework assignments for each chapter. The HW is counted for 50 points. Each student will also do a written report on applications of the class material to the research (or proposed research) of the student. The details of this report will be discussed individually with each student. This project will be worth 50 points, and together with the HW grade can be used to replace the lowest test score. This gives a class total of 500 points. Students must do their own work on the tests, under penalty of receiving a zero on the test. Students may use only a calculator, a (double sided) sheet of notes/equations, and any data sheets given with the test. Students may work together on homework, and a solutions manual is available. Students should use these resources as occasional rather than constant aids. *Diligence on the HW assignments is the key to success in this class.* Except in unusual circumstances, there will be no makeup exams. Grades will be assigned on a >93 = A, 90-93=A-, 87-90 = B+, 83-87=B, 80-83=B-, 77-80=C+, etc., basis.

This class meets MTThF 11:00 to 11:50. The MTTh meetings will be regular lectures. The Friday meetings will be either tests or HW recitations, or in some cases discussion of material from the associated lab class.

Physical chemistry textbooks vary substantially in style and students are encouraged to read other books if the text is not effective. The Atkins, Laidler, Raff, and Reid texts and others will be on reserve in the library or available from the Professor for your use. You are also encouraged to stop by for office hours. If the scheduled office hours are not convenient, appointments at other times can be made.

Academic Integrity:

Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university. (Note that working *together* on homework is not considered plagiarism in this class; *copying* another's homework is.)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

A student who believes that reasonable accommodations with respect to course work or other academic requirements may be appropriate in consideration of a disability must (1) provide the required verification of the disability to the Disabilities Resource Center, (2) meet with the Disabilities Resource Center to determine appropriate accommodations, and (3) inform the faculty in charge of the academic activity of the need for accommodation. Students are encouraged to inform the faculty of their requests for accommodations as early as possible in the semester, but must make the requests in a timely enough manner for accommodations to be appropriately considered and reviewed by the university. If contacted by the faculty member, the staff of the Disabilities Resource Center will provide advice about accommodations that may be indicated in the particular case. Students who make requests for reasonable accommodations are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the Disabilities Resource Center in this process, including but not limited to the Student Handbook.

A wide range of services can be obtained by students with disabilities, including housing, transportation, adaptation of printed materials, and advocacy with faculty and staff. Students with disabilities who need such services or want more information should contact the Disabilities Resource Center at 815-753-1303.