Chemistry 75—General Information

Please read all of the following and ask if something’s not clear. In particular, read the section on the Honor Principle closely.

WEB SITE: The main source for information about this course is the course web site: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~pchem/75/index.html. This handout duplicates in large part the Course Info page on this site.

People, Places, Things

INSTRUCTOR: John Winn, 204 Burke, office hours by appointment. Please ask if you need help, and see below about BlitzMail policy.

TAs: Michael Cukan and Haydn Mitchell. Mike is a graduate student working with Prof. Wilcox and Haydn is a graduate student working with Prof. Mirica. You can most easily contact them via BlitzMail.

CLASS TIMES: M, W, and F, 11:30–12:35; X-hour, Tu 12:15–1:05, 315 Steele. X-hours will be used frequently, as announced in lecture and shown on the course calendar.

TEXT: Physical Chemistry, by Ira N. Levine, McGraw Hill, 6th Edition. This text is available in a hardcover edition and in a paperback (and less expensive) edition. Shop around. There is also a Student Solutions Manual available that you will find useful. A few copies of both the text and the Solutions Manual will be available in Kresge Library on reserve.

BLITZMAIL POLICY: I love BlitzMail—don't we all? But it is not the medium to answer specific technical questions, such as "How do you work the third homework problem?" On the other hand it is an ideal way for us to keep in touch outside class time. I may use Canvas to send info to all of you from time to time, and you should feel free to blitz me whenever you'd like to set a time to meet in person, to notify me whenever you will miss an important class event, etc.
Grades

EXAMS: There will be two exams during the term, from 7 to 9:30 PM, in our classroom, 315 Steele:

Exam 1: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
Exam 2: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The final exam will be from 8 to 11 AM, SATURDAY, MARCH 11, location to be announced (but very likely 315 Steele).

HOMEWORK: Each week (more or less), I will assign a variety of problems, some from the text and some that are not. It is vital that you attempt all the assigned problems. You cannot wait until the last minute to try to master this material. If you find you are having difficulty with the problems, see me as soon as possible so that we can work together on them. The homework assignments will be archived on the Homework pages on the web. The solutions to all the problems assigned from the book are in the Student Solutions Manual, but these solutions may not do more than give the answer. The logic behind the answer may still elude you; if so, ask for help! One or two problems not from the book are to be turned in as instructed each week following their assignment. These are to be your own work, and they will count in part toward your grade in the course. Solutions to the problems I make up will be available on the web on or soon after the due date.

LABORATORY: The lab periods are 2:10-6:10 PM on Monday and Wednesday and 2:30 to 6:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. Not all labs will require the full four hour period, but you should be prepared to stay until you have acquired the necessary data. Come to lab prepared! Make-up periods may be difficult to schedule. There are four laboratory experiments. Every undergraduate taking the course must do all four. (Graduate students taking the course for credit are exempt from doing the labs, but they are expected to understand the theory behind each lab.) Failure to complete the laboratory portion of the course can result in failing the entire course no matter what your exam performance has been. You will work in groups of two, and sign-up sheets will be available during lecture. (Note that you can not sign up for labs via the web, but I will post the times that you choose on our web site.)

See the web site's laboratory link for more information about the lab and the due dates for (and expected formats of) lab write-ups.

GRADES: Your course grade will reflect your exam performance (80%), your lab performance (15%), and your over-all performance on the homework I will ask you to submit (5%). Graduate students taking the course are exempt from the labs, and their grade will be weighted 85% exams, 15% homework.

Ethics

DISABILITIES: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me by the end of the second
week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disabilities Coordinator may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

HONOR PRINCIPLE: It is vital that you understand the role of the Dartmouth Academic Honor Principle in all aspects of this course. Please inquire if you have questions or feel you need clarification on any of the following explicit dictums of the Honor Principle for this course. In particular, you should be aware that the Honor Principle is a two-way agreement: you agree, by enrolling in Dartmouth, to uphold it, and I agree, by accepting employment on the Dartmouth Faculty, to enforce it. A link to the Honor Principle available at http://www.Dartmouth.edu/~pchem states my duties as a faculty member. Read them. I will follow them if need be. Bottom line: a failing grade is always preferable to a trip before the Committee on Standards. Don't screw up.

For this course, there are specific aspects of the Honor Principle you must keep in mind:

Examinations: Any of the numerous activities normally considered cheating is a violation. Examinations are not proctored; however, I will be present from time to time during exams to answer questions that arise. Since exam graders do not have perfect records of accuracy, claims of injustice in grading will be carefully considered. The changing of an answer followed by the return of the paper to the instructor for reconsideration is a direct violation of the Honor Principle.

Laboratory: The principle of academic honor is at the very heart of experimental science. Unless permission is granted by the instructor, use of another student's laboratory data is a violation. When use of another's data is allowed, the source of the data must be indicated. Fabrication of data or alteration of your own data to secure some desired result is also a violation. In the case of experiments where two students work together and data have been recorded in one student's notebook, a copy of the data may be made in the other student's notebook with an appropriate citation to the location of the original data. Any other material in the notebook that has been copied from any source whatever must also be provided with a source citation. The laboratory report must represent your independent calculations and individual conclusions. Of course, direct copying of any portion of another student's laboratory report is a clear violation of the Honor Principle.

Homework: The problems I will assign that do not come from the text and that I indicate you are to submit for a grade must be your own, independent work and are governed by the constraints of the Honor Principle. These problems help you learn the material and help me learn what you are finding difficult. They carry so little academic weight that submitting solutions that are not your own is the most foolish form of academic suicide.

Computer: The Dartmouth Computing Code of Ethics covers all use of computers, personal or otherwise, in this course. Any information exchanged by computer and used in laboratory reports must be cited properly, as must any computer program or computational algorithm not of your own devising.