

Examinations

Two mid-term examinations and a comprehensive final are planned for the course. The mid-term exams will be held on October 16 and December 4, 2007. The date for the final will be determined by the Registrar.

Problem Sets

Problem sets will be assigned regularly but will not be graded. Some of the problems will be similar to examination problems. Help in understanding how to do the problems can be obtained from the course teaching assistants and me during office hours or by appointment. I encourage you to work with other members of the class in doing the assigned problem sets or at least in comparing how you and others tackled specific problems. Problems in inorganic chemistry and of this course in particular are usually not of the simple plug-and-chug type.

A comment on working together or comparing how you answered specific problems: I firmly believe that if you truly understand your answer and the principles and specifics regarding it, then you will be able to explain it to others clearly. If you do *not* fully understand what you are explaining, you will soon see that your answer doesn't hold. The process of discussing answers helps to teach each of you what you know and what you don't more than simply reviewing class or book notes.

Element Groups

The class will be divided into 3-4 person element groups. These groups will work together as teams for three class presentations of no more than 10 minutes each. For these presentations, a single grade will be given to all members of the group. These groups will be chosen randomly and will remain intact through the semester. It is important to work together as a team and to integrate all efforts for a unified presentation. That will be the situation that all of you will encounter at different points in your careers. For success, each of you will need to set aside time and commitment to make the team effort a success.

Grading for the Course

The grade for the course will be based on the two mid-term examinations (45 %), the final (30 %), the element group presentations (20 %) and other group and class activities (5 %).