

Dear All,

An early welcome to Chem 440 from your prof Martin Gruebele and TAs Gopika Gopan, Arash Firouzbakht, and Wenqing Zhu. Let's do some Pchem this semester!

Our first lecture is Wednesday January 19th at 11 AM. For the first week of classes, current campus policy calls for online lectures, so that's how we'll start. I will email everyone enrolled a Zoom link before classes start. Contact me (mgruebel@illinois.edu) if you don't have the link by Friday Jan. 14th.

Note: You need to log into **Zoom with your Illinois email** to get access; but you all know this drill already.

Due to COVID-19 escalating again right now, lecture status may change, but the current plan is to go in-person starting the second week, and I am not recording the lectures, as they are 'live events.' However, **if you must participate from out of town, email me** (mgruebel@illinois.edu) by Friday Jan. 14th with your location and time zone. This class can be successfully passed even if you can't attend lectures, and I will send you information.

Please look up the course website at

<https://gruebele-group.chemistry.illinois.edu/courses/chem-440/>

before the first lecture and **email us back by Monday Jan. 17th** that you have read it:

- Under "Announcements, grading and FAQs" is the grading info (no curves), and homework policy.
- Under "Course schedule, assignments" you'll find the complete schedule of lectures, exams, reading assignments.
- Under "Homework info and solutions" you'll find all solutions to homework assignments BEFORE they are due. Homework will be collected every Monday via the course Moodle site; contact Wenqing Zhu for information.
- Under "Instructor and TAs" you'll find our contact info and initial office hour schedule; you can reach us at those emails anytime.
- Under "Textbook," you'll find ALL the reading for the class, in 4 sets of lecture notes. There is no expensive text book. The reading averages about 2 -3 pages of lecture notes per lecture, please do the assignment before each lecture so I can focus on the key questions in class. **Homework** is in the reading material.

I'll have one of my office hours on Fridays right after class (noon to 1), which will move to in-person if classes are in person. I will have **another office hour that will ALWAYS be by Zoom**, time TBA.

The TAs will make their **lecture notes available online** at "Instructor and TAs" if you have to miss a class. I strongly encourage you to attend all lectures, and will be really happy if I see some faces on Zoom! And I hope we'll be able to move to in-person as planned, except for the few of you who have to participate remotely.

Cheers, Martin

Martin Gruebele.

Prof. of Chemistry, Physics, Biophysics & Quantitative Biology, C-I College of Medicine

Excerpt from current campus C-19 guidelines:

-All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear face coverings in classrooms and university spaces. This is in accordance with CDC guidance and University policy and expected in this class.

-Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work. Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence...

- In order to implement COVID-19-related guidelines and policies affecting university operations, instructional faculty members may ask students in the classroom to show their Building Access Status in the Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. Staff members may ask students in university offices to show their Building Access Status in the Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. If the Building Access Status says "Granted," that means the individual is compliant with the university's COVID-19 policies—either with a university-approved COVID-19 vaccine or with the on-campus COVID-19 testing program for unvaccinated students. Students are required to show only the Building Access Screen, which shows compliance without specifying whether it was through COVID-19 vaccination or regular on-campus testing. To protect personal health information, this screen does not say if a person is vaccinated or not. Students are not required to show anyone the screen that displays their vaccination status. No university official, including faculty members, may ask students why they are not vaccinated or any other questions seeking personal health information.