Course Rules          Biochem 104 b

My goal is to help you learn and understand the material covered in this course!!!! My general attitude is to welcome questions, queries and confusions from students. I will go to almost any length to make sure that you understand the material. At the same time I expect you to make at least as strong an effort to learn the material as I make teaching it. You have to help yourself before I can -or I am willing to- help you. The (harsh) rules laid out below, are designed to force you to help yourself.

Format of the course
The course is a lecture course but this does not mean that you just lean back and enjoy the show. Your active participation is essential for a successful completion of the course. You are expected to:

- Read your assignments (be prepared to answer questions about your assignments)
- Participate in class (asking questions as well as answering my questions)
- Go over your class notes to make sure that you understood what was covered in class
- Solve and hand in solutions for Problem sets
- Attend and participate in recitation sessions held by the TA.

Ultimately, you are responsible for learning the material covered by the course. If you do not understand some of the math, biochemistry or physical chemistry required for this course, you have to go back and re-learn that material. If you did not understand something that was covered in class, ask your fellow students, read up on the topic in different textbooks, ask the TA. If all this fails, come and talk to me. Above all, if you do not understand something, don’t let it slide and figure that you will be able to go back and figure it our later, you won’t.

How grades are determined
The overall grade will be determined by two factors:

1) **Exams 90%** There will be three exams. Two one hour in-class “mid-term” exams (25% of final grade each) and one Final exam (40% of final grade). Everything covered in the assignments, lectures, problem sets, or recitation sections, can and will be the topic of the exams. The exams will be closed-book.

2) **Participation 10 %** Class participation includes successful completion of problems sets, reading assignments and participation during the class sessions.

While participation counts for only 10%, don’t even think about skimping on it. If you slack on your assignments, reading or your homework, you are all but guaranteed to be unable to follow the material in class and will fail your tests.
Missed Work and Makeup Exams
You are expected to attend all the classes and recitation section, perform all the assignments and solve all the problem sets, and take all the tests, period! In particular, there will be no makeups for missed exams. If you miss an exam by simply not showing up, you will receive a failing grade. The only case in which you will get the chance to take an oral exam to make up for a missed exam is if you have serious and documented reasons (e.g. you have to appear in court or you are having a baby) for missing the exam and you inform me about those reasons as soon as they arise, which is virtually always before the exam takes place.

Promptness
Lectures will begin at 11:10 am sharp! Late arrivals are very disruptive to the class and if you missed the introduction to a class it will be all but impossible to figure out what is going on. So don’t just be on time, be early!

Background and Expectations
I expect that everyone will have a familiarity with basic thermodynamics, especially equilibrium constants and Gibbs free energy. You will be expected to differentiate and integrate equations and to have a good feeling for simple mathematical functions. “I have problems with math” is not an excuse. Everybody has problems with math! If you have problems, find a solution! The simplest solution is usually to get out a math book and practice.