

CHEM2303 – Chemical Dynamics (2011/12)

Summary of student comments compiled by Kevin Douglas
Responses by course organiser (Dr S T Banks)

Number of responses: 42 (22 with comments)
Total number of students: 55

Overall score for course: 3.9

Comments on lectures

General

General view that the material covered was interesting, and that the course content was good. However some students thought that there was too much material, particularly in the LASER section, and that the starting standard was too high in both the photochemistry and LASER sections, with a lot of the material being mathematically rich. Several students also commented that tutorials would be helpful.

STB

Excellent lecturing, very helpful, and well delivered were some of the comments used. Many students also commented that the course relied too much on knowledge of 2301, and that it was sometimes assumed that all background material was understood. Other students also suggested that the lecture notes be put on moodle before lectures so that it can be read before.

HHF

The notes were good but many students found there was too much information in the notes. Several students suggested splitting the notes into background information and information for the exam. Others suggested using gapped handouts to make lectures more interactive and engaging.

AM

Excellent, very good and teaches very well were some of the comments used. Students commented that the handouts were useful, but several commented that it would be useful to have these handouts on moodle before the lectures.

Response from Course Organiser: Dr S T Banks

Response to Lecturers, Content and Help Sessions

The course has been generally very well received.

The lecture notes for the lasers section (HHF) included material providing background and context which would naturally form part of the students' background reading for the module. The handout did also include a number of gaps.

It is gratifying to see that the course was found to be interesting. This is a second year optional course in physical chemistry and so a significant mathematical content is both necessary and desirable.

Sometimes lecturers wish to make electronic copies of handouts available only after lectures to control the pace of the course. The outline of the course is available from the start and students are of course free to read ahead in books and other sources. We will, however, consider ways to balance the provision of materials in future.

The comments about reliance on CHEM2301 are intriguing. CHEM2301 is a core second year physical chemistry course and is a pre-requisite for CHEM2303. The material in 2301 on which 2303 relies has been taught in term 1 specifically to act a preparation for the optional module. As with any course, 2303 assumes an adequate background in the pre-requisite courses as a starting point.

Action to be taken for next session

Course Content

No change.

Lecturing Staff

No change.

Coursework

No change.

Signed by Course Organiser:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. T. Banks', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

23/04/12