

CHEM2102/3 – Principles of Inorganic Chemistry (2011/12)

Summary of student comments compiled by Kevin Douglas
Responses by course organiser (Dr F Cora)

Number of responses: 15 (10 with comments)
Total number of students: 97

Overall score for course: 3.9

Score for Lab: 3.3

Comments on course

General

Overall positive response with students commenting that the course was “generally enjoyable” and that “everything about the course is good”. Several students asked for the lectures to be recorded and posted online, particularly for lectures in which there is a lot of board work and the annotations are not posted on moodle. Overall views on tutorials positive, with students commenting that the tutors are helpful and encouraging. Some students suggest providing model answers to the tutorial questions once the tutorial has finished, in case they had not covered everything in the available time, while another commented that one tutorial a week was not sufficient to go over all the questions. One student commented on the course content – “It would be nice to have some summary of procedure when asked to visualise MOs or vibrations. Sometimes basis functions are chosen for a reducible representation or projection operator and it’s not entirely clear why these are more appropriate from the notes.”

FC

One student commented that for board notes, less short hand would make it easier to take notes.

IPP

One student requested that “IPP’s lectures be recorded, as none of his material is posted online.”

CRAC

One student commented that they would prefer if the coursework deadline for CRAC’s coursework was in term time and not during the Easter holidays.

CB

No comments.

Comments on Lab

One student commented that “the lab course was good in general”. Several students commented that both the experiments and write ups were long, with one student commenting that it would be better to have the further questions as problem sheets to be discussed in tutorials or during lectures. Other students commented that as the lab course started at the beginning of the year they had not covered the relevant course material, with one student suggesting having tutorials or summaries to help with understanding the theory behind the labs.

Response from Course Organiser: Dr F Cora

Response to Lecturers, Content and Help Sessions

The students' comments received on the course have been overall positive; the fact that the laboratory runs before some of the relevant content has been covered in the lectures is a long-standing problem for this course, and is dictated by the availability of laboratory space. In response to the above issue, the laboratory write up has been divided into two parts, one to describe the practical work to be handed immediately after the experiment, and one relating the experiments to the theory covered in the lectures that is submitted towards the end of the course. The latter assignment has been supported by 4 hours of tutorial style discussions, which covers the suggestion put forward in the "comments on the lab" section.

Recording lectures is a valuable suggestion, and will be considered in future years, provided it is technically feasible in the lecture theatres assigned to the course.

The deadline for submission of Prof Catlow's coursework has been extended to beyond the Easter break to enable sufficient flexibility for the students to elaborate their answers at a convenient time. The coursework has been set early enough for students to submit it before the end of term, should they have wished to do so.

Action to be taken for next session

Course Content

The course content will not be modified.

Lecturing Staff

To remain as in the current year.

Coursework

We will consider introducing in-class tests to replace coursework at the end of the course, to avoid assignments over the holiday periods.

Signed by Course Organiser:

F. Cora

Date: 29/5/2012