Homework Assignments

I will be assigning at least 5 sets of homework problems. These problems are intended to give you practice in the chemical skills you will need to succeed in the course. They will also give you some ideas as to what topics from each chapter are considered most important. Thus the main reason to do your homework is to help you to do well in exams. In order to give you a more tangible incentive, the homework will also count for a portion of your final course grade, as explained in your syllabus. We will be using a system called CAPA (Computer Assisted Personal Assignments) to do all of your chemistry homework this semester. Here’s a quick summary of how CAPA works.

- A computer program helps me prepare an individual problem set for each of you. Your problems and those of your classmates will be similar, but not identical.
- You will pick up your problem sets in lecture. Be sure that you get the correct set, with your name on it!
- You will work the problems just like you would "normal" problems assigned from the book.
- Once you have answers for some or all of the problems, you are ready to log in to the CAPA computer and check your answers.
- You will log in to the computer through any web browser and submit your answers. For each problem, the computer will tell you immediately if your answer is right or wrong. If it’s right, you’re done with that problem. If not, you can rework the problem and submit another answer. In some cases, the computer may even provide you with a hint on problems that you miss.
- You can try a problem as many times as you need to (up to about 99 tries), until the due time listed on the assignment sheet. Once the due time passes, the computer will not accept any more answers.
- Shortly after the due date, if you log in again the computer will let you view the correct answers and sometimes a short explanation of how to work each problem.
- The computer also keeps track of your scores on the problem sets.

Accessing CAPA

You can access the CAPA system from any standard web browser. So you can submit your answers from a campus computer lab, from your room or apartment, or anywhere that you have web access. All you need to do is get to any computer with a web browser (probably either Netscape or Internet Explorer, but other browsers should work, too, as long as they are fairly current versions) and go to the following URL. (Note: this is a new address, so if you have used CAPA before, your old bookmark will no longer work. Also, there is a link to this page from our section homepage.)

http://chem107.chem.tamu.edu/capa-bin/class.html

A form should appear. There are several courses using CAPA this semester, and 107 LSB will be displayed as the default Class. Change Class to 101_JMH for our CAPA (pull-down menu). Then, enter your student ID # and the PIN # printed on your CAPA sheet (This PIN number will change for each problem set) in the boxes on the form, then click the button that says, "Click here to work on CAPA." After that just follow the directions on the web page. When working with CAPA, the slowest step is having the computer check your answers, so it is a good idea to enter as many answers as you have before hitting the "submit" button. Please be aware that the system may be slower than usual when traffic is high (i.e., the night the problems are due).

If you have problems ...

If you have trouble accessing CAPA, you have several options. You can e-mail me at heising@mail.chem.tamu.edu, and I will try to help you if I can. You will need to be able to explain in as much detail as possible exactly what you did and what happened, so keep some notes. If you are in a campus computer lab, try asking the help desk people or even other students working nearby who may be able to help. Once you get the hang of it, the system is really easy to use.