

**MAT 501 Thermodynamics**  
**Fall 2021**

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**Associates:**            TBA  
**Course Data:**        *Hours:*            Mon 10.40-12.30/Tue 09.40-10.30  
                              *Office hours:*    TBA

**Textbooks:**

**Callen, H.B.**, *Thermodynamics and an Introduction to Thermostatistics*, Wiley, 2nd Ed., 1985. [QC311 .C35 1985](#).  
**Fermi, E.**, *Thermodynamics*, Dover, 1956. [QC311 .F47 2010](#).

**References:**

**Dill, K.A., Bromberg, S., and Stigter, D.**, *Molecular Driving Forces*, Statistical Thermodynamics in Biology. Garland Science, 2nd Ed., 2011. [QC311.5 .D55 2011](#).  
**Reif, F.**, *Fundamentals of statistical and thermal physics*. McGraw-Hill, 1965. [QC175 .R44 1965](#).  
**Zemansky, M.W. and Dittman, R.H.**, *Heat and Thermodynamics*. 7th ed. McGraw-Hill, 1997.

**Weeks Commencing/Topics:**

**Sep 27, Oct 4**    Part I

Thermodynamic systems

Piston-gas as a system

    Idealizations and assumptions about the piston, the gas, and the environment

Gases

    Ideal/perfect – what are the assumptions?

    Laws – observations/experiments

    Maxwell's "kinetic" theory

Work done

**Oct 11, 18**        Part II

Internal energy

    Isolated systems

Heat

    Interactions with the environment – Isothermal, adiabatic, and all else

The first law

    Gases

    Expansions – what variables are fixed? Reversibility for each step or whole process?

The maximum work theorem

**Oct 25, Nov 1**            Part III

The second law

Cycles

    Carnot – why Carnot? Are there other cycles? A general form of cycles

    Inverted heat engines: Refrigerators and pumps

Entropy

The fundamental equation – and its consequences

**Nov 8**                Recapitulation and the **Midterm**

**Nov 15, 22**        Part IV

Thermodynamic potentials

Helmholtz and Gibbs free energy  
Legendre transformations  
The Maxwell relations  
Thermodynamic description of mixtures

**Nov 29, Dec 6** Part V

Stability of Thermodynamic Systems

Explain, why

Addition of heat to a stable system must increase its temperature

Isothermal expansion of a stable system must decrease its pressure

Le Châtelier's principle and Braun's amendment

Phase diagrams

Stabilities of phases

Phase boundaries and typical phase diagrams

**Dec 13, 20** Part VI

Phase transitions

First-order phase transitions in single component systems

The discontinuity (of the volume – the lever rule; in the entropy – latent heat)

Phase loci – The Clapeyron equation

First order transitions in multicomponent simple systems – Gibbs' phase rule

Phase diagrams for binary systems

**Dec 27**

Entropy revisited

The Nernst postulate and the Third Law

Recapitulation and the **Final prep**

**Class Policies**

Course will be hybrid.

All lectures will be synchronized and recorded.

**Grading**

Quizzes: (5-best/6) of them, one for each "part;" total is for 25% of the final grade

Midterm: 35% of the final grade

Final exam: 40% of the final grade; covers all the material