NS 218 Fundamentals of Nanoscience
Spring 2023

Intended Audience:
A sophomore level hands-on course for MAT, BIO, and ME majors, PHYS minors, or anyone interested in understanding phenomena governing the behavior of structures in the 1-100 nm size range.

Objective:
Throughout the Semester, we will make *models to crystallize our thinking* ---you know what, actually *to start thinking*. Via models we will develop intuition and heuristics to come up with conjectures/hypotheses to be tested by experiments (in wet lab and/or in silico). Accordingly, these will provide a helping hand towards having a knowledge base on how man-made nanostructures and biological nanomachines behave. At the end, we will have the insight for junior-senior level courses where both extensive measurements on materials and biological systems on all scales are made, and the formation of higher order structure is discussed.

Moderator:

	Name:	Ali Rana Atılgan
	Office No.:	FENS 2093
	Phone No.:	+90 (216) 483 9525
	e-mail:	atilgan@sabanciuniv.edu
	URL:	http://people.sabanciuniv.edu/atilgan

Associate:

Course Data:

Hours/Room	Mon 11.40-12.30; Tue 12.40-14.30/FENS G029
Office hours:	*TBA*
Zoom link:	https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/97433865395

Textbook:
Dill, K.A., Bromberg, S., and Stigter, D., *Molecular Driving Forces*, Statistical Thermodynamics in Biology. Garland Science, 2nd Ed., 2011. QC311.5 .D55 2011.

Reference:
Israelachvili, J., *Intermolecular and Surface Forces*, 3rd Ed. Academic Press, 2011. QD461 .I87 2011

Weeks Commencing/Topics:

Feb 27, Mar 6, and 13 Act I – A story from $1/r$ to $1/r^6$ and empirical energy functions

Entropy as multiplicity and its role in nanoscience
Coulomb's law and charge interactions
- What do we mean by long range and how do they get weaker?
- The thermal energy steps on the stage

Dipoles – are they to stay fixed?
Polarizability
- Is it a material constant?
- Induced dipoles – are they ubiquitously observable?

van der Waals interactions
Hydrogen bonds

Mar 20, 27, and Apr 3 Act II – Then surfaces get into the picture

Forces between particles and surfaces
- SFA and AFM – are we getting serious, can we measure these forces?
- Hamaker constants

Ions take a role again – they shield charged objects in water
- Debye length and Bjerrum length; any other length of similar spirit; would you suggest one?

To what extent it is possible to unify concepts in intermolecular and inter-particle forces?
How do similar surfaces come together in a medium?
- Surface and interfacial energy

Apr 10 **Exam I**

Apr 17, 24, and May 2 Act III – Interactions lead to binding
May 1 International Workers' Day (National holiday)

Chemical kinetics – A quick recapitulation of NS 10X courses
- The effect of temperature; is this thermal energy again?
- How is it different from physical kinetics?

Binding and Adsorption Processes
- The Langmuir Model – we better recollect our thermodynamics fundamentals
- The Michaelis–Menten Model; yes, another old but not aged model
- Sabatier's Principle – too many names floating around here! No worries just to shorten the syllabus
  - Delicacy – binding should be neither too tight nor too weak

May 8 and 15 Act IV – Multiple agents cooperatively in action

Self-assembly
- Benjamin Franklin spirit
- Amphiphilic molecules – what shapes of micelles do they form and why?

May 22 **Exam II**

May 29
Biological machines
- Are they different from thermodynamic cycles via which macro engines operate?

Time and length scales in the Nano-world
- And "Curtain!"

Class Policies

It will be the students' decision to follow **online lectures**, held in classrooms, **via Zoom or in the classroom**.
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*"We may have to revise the course plan according to the countrywide reassessment to be made regarding higher education. This is expected to happen at the beginning of April. The **content** to be delivered is **certain** but the **method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams**, and some other details are **subject to change**."*

Grading

Exam I and II: 30% each, total is for 60% of the final grade
Final exam: 40% of the final grade; covers all the material