Frosh Professors Give Advice And Expectations for Term

By Karen Seto

A month has passed since freshmen first arrived on campus for Residence and Orientation Week. Freshmen now have a pretty solid idea of what their coursework is like, whether or not they enjoy a class, and which classes are the hardest, the most demanding, and the most time-consuming. However, to present a more well-rounded view of the required freshman core courses, the professors gave their opinions, advice, and expectations.

3.091 Introduction to Solid Chemistry

(3.091) concentrates on the properties and behavior of solids. "One of the goals for this course is for the student to understand the basis of the properties of solids that surround us," said Professor of Materials Science and Engineering August F. Witt, who is teaching the course this semester.

The course consists of three lectures and two recitations a week, and requires about seven to 10 hours of outside studying and working on problem sets for the student to perform adequately, Witt said. During the last five to 10 minutes of each lecture, Witt relates the course material to the real world.

There are few experiments in this course, Witt said. Although they are not submitted for a grade, problem sets, which can be worked on individually or as a team, are issued weekly. Still, students are kept accountable by the quizzes because quiz problems correlate with those on the problem sets. The quizzes count for 20 percent of the final grade.

Witt emphasizes that teaching assistants are important in the course because they are the ones who have "direct contact with the students."

In addition, "3.091 depends on the students' use of [the Athena Computing Environment]," Witt said. Problem sets and a summary of each lecture is in the course locker on Athena.

5.11 Principles of Chemical Science

(5.11) teaches students basic principles of molecular chemistry. Professor of Chemistry Robert W. Field teaches the course during the first half of the semester, and Professor of Chemistry Alan Davison teaches the second half.

One problem set is issued each week, each taking about three to four hours. There are three one-hour exams.

Students may opt to submit a letter stating their interest if resume is not completed by October 7.