

## **ATTENTION FRESHMEN**

### **IMPORTANT NEWS 20.110/2.772 Fall Term 2007**

#### ***About the Subject:***

20.110/2.772 "Thermodynamics of Biomolecular Systems" is a foundational thermodynamics subject that introduces essential concepts needed to describe thermodynamics of biological molecules and cells, and also provides a foundation for molecular mechanics and polymer science. 20.110/2.772 is a required pre-requisite for almost all upper-level Course 20 subjects, for several subjects in the 2-A biotrack (e.g., 20.310/2.797/3.054/6.024), and for upper-level Course 7 subjects (7.37/20.361). 20.110/2.772 is required for Course 20 and is recommended by Course 7 (for fulfilling the thermodynamics requirement in Course 7) and by Course 2 for students pursuing the 2-A biotrack. 20.110/2.772 is currently co-listed by Course 20 and Course 2.

In fall 2007, the teaching faculty include

Prof. Linda Griffith (Course 2 & Course 20) <http://web.mit.edu/be/people/griffith.htm>

Prof. Eric Alm (Course 1 & Course 20) <http://web.mit.edu/be/people/alm.htm>

Prof. Michael Yaffe (Course 7 & Course 20) <http://web.mit.edu/be/people/yaffe.htm>

#### ***Important Changes from Last Year:***

In 2005 and 2006, Course 5 and Course 20 conducted an experiment in which 5.60 and 20.110 met together with a common syllabus for the first half of the term, then split to separate classes for the second half of the term. In 2007 (this year), we have elected to teach these as entirely separate subjects; i.e., to take a hiatus from co-teaching while we revise some aspects of the Course 20 and 2-A biotrack curriculum.

#### ***Can 20.110/2.772 and 5.60 substitute for each other?***

You should check with your major to determine the answer to this question, or check the list of pre-reqs for upper level subjects you are interested in taking. Course 20 requires that 20.110/2.772 be taken in fall term of sophomore year and 5.60 does not serve as an appropriate substitute. Courses 5, 10 and 10b require 5.60 and certain upper level subjects require 5.60 as a pre-req. Course 7 accepts either subject, but 20.110 is recommended as a pre-req for certain restricted electives. Certain subjects in the BME minor or the 2-A biotrack require 20.110/2.772 as a pre-requisite and 5.60 is not a recommended substitute; such subjects include 20.320 Analysis of Biomolecular and Cellular Systems; 20.310 Molecular, Cellular and Tissue Biomechanics.