Instructor: Paul Saulnier. You may call me Paul.

Web Presence: Up to date info about this course may be found at, http://physics.gac.edu/~psaul/courses.htm

Office: OHS 208 (507) 933-6123

Office Hours: MTWRF 1:20-2:20, other times by arrangement.

Text: Fundamentals of Statistical and Thermal Physics, by F. Reif.

Recommended Reference: Mathematical Handbook of Formulas and Tables, by Murray R. Spiegel, Schaum's Outline Series. You won't find a better one for 3 x the cost!

Classes: MWF 9:00-9:50 in OHS 216

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected. If you miss a class for any reason you are responsible for the material covered during the class, including any assignments.

Homework: Homework will be assigned approximately every week. Late homework will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, with loss of points. Homework should be your own work, however, collaboration is expected and encouraged.

Makeup: Missed exams may be made up at the discretion of the instructor only with prior notification.

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16 at 1:00 pm in OHS 216.

Coverage: We will be covering the following chapters in more or less detail.

- Chapter 1 - Introduction to statistical methods
- Chapter 2 - Statistical description of systems of particles
- Chapter 3 - Statistical thermodynamics
- Chapter 6 - Basic methods and results of statistical mechanics
- Chapter 7 - Simple applications of statistical mechanics
- Chapter 9 - Quantum statistics of ideal gases
- Chapter 10 - Systems of interacting particles
- Chapter 4 - Macroscopic parameters and their measurement (Less)
- Chapter 5 - Simple applications of macroscopic thermodynamics
- Chapter 8 - Equilibrium between phases or chemical species

Selected topics from Chapters 11, and 12 as time permits

Evaluation: There will be three one-hour exams 3 x 20%

One two-hour final exam 20%

Homework 20%

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale as a guide:

- 94-100 A
- 90-94 A-
- 86-90 B+
- 82-86 B
- 78-82 B-
- 74-78 C+
- 70-74 C
- 66-70 C-
- 62-66 D+
- 58-62 D
- 0-58 F

Please note that these ranges are only guidelines. Final grades will also take into account the instructor's evaluation of the student's attendance, participation, and evidence of improvement or regression.

Instructor's Note: My job in this class is to help you learn Stat. Mech. I take this responsibility seriously and I would ask you to help me do my best. Specifically, I would encourage you to ask questions about the material during class and speak with me outside of class to discuss any course related concerns. Don't wait until the end of the semester to inform me of your concerns - by then it is too late. Your opinion is important to me.