

Preface

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in this book. First a couple of words about what this book is and what it is not. We wrote this text to serve as the primary source for a series of Biophysical Chemistry courses that we regularly teach as faculty members of the Chemistry Department at Western Washington University (WWU; Bellingham, WA, USA). These courses are currently listed as CHEM 466 and CHEM 467 and serve the needs of WWU undergraduate Biochemistry program. The present text is based on the assumption of what WWU Biochemistry majors know and do not know at the time they enter their final year of study toward Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biochemistry. The structure and style of the text reflects our combined experience in teaching this course and our views on the content and pedagogical practices. Although there are many highly valuable books on various topics of Biophysical Chemistry available commercially today, we decided to design our own text because not a single text we know covers all the topics needed for our particular program at WWU with the scope and depth required and with the needed pedagogical elements present. Because of its focus and design, the book is not meant to be a general purpose textbook in Biophysical Chemistry.

As of Fall 2021, the text consist of five Parts, each in turn composed of several Chapters. Every Chapter starts with a one-paragraph introduction describing the Chapter's focus. The principal Learning Objectives are listed next to guide the students in their work with the Chapter. Within the main body of the Chapter, figures, formulas, tables and side notes are utilized in a coherent way to facilitate the comprehension. At the end of each Chapter or within it, we present some relevant problem solving examples, which are followed by a list of practice problems for the students to self-assess their level of comprehension and in some cases help them to advance to the next Chapters.

The book is currently under active development. So, we are thankful for feedback from the Readers who might choose to provide suggestions on how to improve this text.

With best regards,

The Authors

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