

Introduction to Organic Chemistry – CHEM 211

Syllabus and Course Information Sheet

Professor: Dr. Jeff Piquette

Office: C-210

Office Hours: M-F 11-noon, M & W 1-2 p.m.
(or by appointment)

Prerequisites: Chem 111/L

Meeting Times: M, W, F 10:00 a.m.—10:50 a.m.

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Co-requisite: Chem 211L

Classroom: C-221

Textbooks: Brown & Poon, *Introduction to Organic Chemistry*, 3rd Ed. (required)

Materials: Molecular Model Kit (optional)

Scientific Calculator (optional)

Tentative Course Schedule

Week of	Chapter: Topic	Evaluation
Jan 17	Ch. 1: Bonding and Molecular Shape	
Jan 24	Ch. 3: Alkanes and Cycloalkanes	
Jan 31	Ch. 4: Alkenes and Alkynes End of Drop Period	
Feb 7	Ch. 5: Rxns of Alkenes	Exam I
Feb 14	Ch. 6: Chirality	
Feb 21	Ch. 2: Acids and Bases	
Feb 28	Ch. 7: Haloalkanes	
Mar 7	Ch. 8: Alcohols, Ethers, & Thiols	Exam II
Mar 14	Ch. 9: Benzene & Its Derivatives	
Mar 18	Last day to drop with a W	
Mar 21	Spring Break	
Mar 28	TBA	
Apr 4	TBA	
Apr 11	TBA	Exam III
Apr 18	TBA	
Apr 25	TBA	
May 5	Comprehensive Final Exam, 8:00—10:20	

Grading:	Exams I-III	45%	> 90% = A
	Quizzes/Homework	30%	80-89% = B
	Attendance/Participation	10%	70-79% = C
	Comprehensive Final Exam	<u>15%</u>	60-69% = D
	Total:	100%	< 60% = F

Exams: Exam dates will be announced at least one week prior to the date. No make-up exams will be given. Pre-arranged, excused absences on exam dates will be dealt with on an individual basis. To be excused, absences must be accompanied by appropriate documentation (doctor's note, coach's note, etc.)

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be given to help prepare you for exams. They will be short and easy to grade. I will discuss the particulars of these quizzes and how they are graded during the first class session. If you miss the first class session, see me ASAP so I can describe my system to you. Quizzes missed due to an excused absence can be made up by consulting with the instructor.

Homework: A variety of different kinds of homework will be assigned throughout the semester. The particular assignments will be developed based on the needs and interests of the students enrolled in this class. Assignments may include such things as problems from the textbook, in-class worksheets, writing assignments, group projects, etc. Notice that a substantial portion of the semester has not been scheduled. The material and activities covered during these weeks will be negotiated with the class based on your needs and interests. I want this class to apply to you and your field of study as much as is possible!

Course Policies:

1. The use of cell phones is prohibited. Turn them off while you are in class. Abuse of this policy will affect your attendance/participation grade.
2. Attend class and be on time. Unexcused absence/tardiness will affect your attendance/participation grade.
3. Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized 10% per class day late.
4. Course information will be disseminated using Blackboard. **It is your responsibility to check the course Blackboard site DAILY for updates and announcements.**

Words of Wisdom, Advice, & Expectations

1. *Ask questions when you do not understand something.* I am here to help you learn chemistry. That is what I want in this course. Take advantage of my office hours and class time to develop your knowledge.
2. *Stop me if I am going too fast.* It is important for you to note the issues discussed in class. Those are the ones that will appear on the exams.
3. *Follow closely what is covered in class.* I will try my best to emphasize the important topics during class. Organic Chemistry is a huge field and distilling it down to the few concepts that will be covered this semester is difficult. Your text covers much more than we will be able to cover in class, so you need to come to class and hear what I think is important for you to learn. I write the exams – your text doesn't. If a topic is sufficiently important to be discussed in class, then it is of sufficient importance to be included on an exam.
4. *Study for understanding. Don't just "get through" the material.* Too often students read a text just to read the text. They may read it but have no clue what it was they read. When you study, try to achieve a general understanding of the concepts – not a list of memorized facts or simply to "get through" the material. Learning takes time and effort. One hour of focused study is worth much more than 3 hours of mindless reading to get through the chapter, etc.
5. *Form study groups.* A very powerful learning tool is to try to teach a concept to someone else. If you can do that, you probably have a good understanding of that topic. Sharing each other's strengths and ideas is a very good way to learn chemistry.
6. *Feel free to consult with the instructor.* Communication about expectations, requirements, etc. is crucial for your success. Feel free to see me about any questions that you have. I do not want the path to success for this course to be a mystery. **Also, please talk to me before dropping the course.** Things may not be as bad as you think.
7. *Come to class prepared.* If there is an assigned reading, questions, etc., have it done before class. It makes your class time more efficient and improves understanding.
8. *Expectation of the student.* I expect you to work hard in this class. I am not going to give you anything. You will earn it. I am willing to facilitate your learning as much as I can, but it is up to you to put forth the effort to succeed.

This university abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." If you have a documented disability that may impact your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible to arrange accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to: the Disability Resource Office, which is located in the Psychology Building, Suite 232.

Have a great semester and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the course!