

Organic Chemistry
Chemistry 141A
Fall 2015

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Welcome to Organic Chemistry. The reactions and structures you learn throughout this semester are cumulative and will be applied to discussions later in the semester and into the spring.

AIMS: At the end of this course (and CHEM 142) a successful student will have developed skills and knowledge that allow them to:

I: Recognize the atoms and bonding present in common functional groups, their resultant chemical properties and likely reactions.

II: Be able to create rational curved-arrow mechanisms to predict the likely products of reactions.

Students that can combine these skills will be most successful, as this skillset will allow them to communicate with scientists in many other fields.

LECTURES: 10:50 PM – 11:40 PM M/W/F Marsh Life Sciences 235

OFFICE HOURS: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM, M/W/F, or by appt.

THURSDAY EVENING REVIEW: Each Friday I will email (and post on Blackboard) a few problems to be discussed at the following Thursday Evening Review. This is a perfect opportunity to practice problems and work through some of the tricky points in regards to the new concepts. These questions are not graded but many students find these review sessions very helpful. I usually bring donuts/cookies and “organic” fruit for volunteers!! The atmosphere is a little less formal and more conversational 6pm~7pm (approx. 1hr) Billings Lecture Hall.

WEEKLY HOMEWORK: I will be using Sapling Learning for weekly graded problems. These must be completed by 11:55pm on Sunday of week posted for credit.

LAB: Labs start the week of September 14th. Logistics to be discussed next week.

EXAMS:
EXAM 1 Thursday 1st October, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
EXAM 2 Thursday 29th October, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
EXAM 3 Thursday 19th November, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Any conflicts with an exam date or time **must be** resolved a week in advance. Alternate exam times must be prior to scheduled exam time, no late exams, no exceptions.

FINAL EXAM FRIDAY 18th Dec. 7:30 AM – 10:15 AM, Billings LH

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

“*Organic Chemistry*”, Klein, 2nd edition, Wiley
“*Organic Chemistry*”, Study guide by same author
Online Access to Sapling Learning (weekly and prelab quizzes)
Lab Notebook and SAFETY GLASSES

RECOMMENDED:

“*Organic Chemistry I*” As a Second Language, Klein, any edition
Molecular Structure Model Kit, HGS

COURSE GRADE: The course grade will be based on three mid-semester exams and a compulsory, cumulative final exam. Of the three mid-terms the lowest grade will be dropped. No curves are applied to the mid-semester exams and the class average for the exams may vary depending on the complexity of the material. Try your best on all the exams. Attendance at an exam is not required and zero can be considered as your lowest grade. The final exam grade will not be dropped.

Each mid-semester exam will constitute 20% of your grade, the Final will constitute 25%, providing 65% of your course grade. The lab component of the course will deliver 25%. The final 10% will come from the Sapling Learning online homework.

3 exams (best two mid-terms (20% each) and the final (25%))	65%
Lab grade	25%
Sapling Learning weekly graded homework	10%
	100%

COURSE ETIQUETTE:

Organic chemistry has a scary reputation. It is best thought of as a new language or skill. As with any skill some people can become skillful faster than others. All of you are capable of successfully completing this course with the right attitude and determination.

Recommendations:

1. Attend class with a clear and inquisitive attitude.
2. While in class focus on understanding the material. Do NOT text, check Facebook or emails. This is a waste of your time, money, disrespectful to me and the other students around you who are trying to learn. I know everyone gets distracted at times.
3. After class review the material, read the sections in the textbook. Try the recommended problems, work on the weekly problem set for Thursday, finish the weekly graded online problems for Sunday.
4. Speak respectfully to your fellow students, your TA and me. I will try to help you learn the material in this course so you can competently understand the central importance of organic chemistry for other more advanced topics. All the challenges presented to you are designed to encourage you to learn this valuable material.
5. Try to find answers to your own problems by checking the course syllabus, lab logistics or Blackboard. Then, if you still don't find the answer, after looking, check in with me or your TA.
6. All course materials (both yours and mine) are protected by copyright. I cannot copy or post your written material and you cannot post any course materials such as blanks of the exam, reviews or notes online. Lectures may not be recorded without permission.
7. All students are expected to honor the UVM codes of conduct and academic integrity.
8. Work hard and have fun!