
Instructor:  Professor Amnon Kohen  Office:  E274 CB

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(please include "4:123" in the subject line)

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Web Site:  Online content for the course will be managed using the ICON (Iowa Courses Online) system (http://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml).  The site will be used to post copies of the slides used in class, as well as practice exams, exam keys, and occasional announcements.

Textbook:  "Organic Chemistry", 11th or 12th Editions (2014 or 2016, respectively), by Solomons, Fryhle and Snyder, (ISBN #s: 078-1-118-13357-6 [e11] or 978-1-118-87576-6 [e12]).  The 10th edition of this book can also be used for this course. Most of the changes in the new addition are cosmetic.

Optional Materials:  Students are advised to obtain a set of molecular models.  The models are very useful in helping to visualize the 3D-structures of organic compounds.  However, such models cannot be used during exams.  You may purchase molecular models from a variety of sources, including from the UI Chemistry fraternity (ΑΧΣ).  The kits are sold near the Chem Center (E225 CB) during the first few weeks of the semester.

Course Notes:  Copies of the Powerpoint slides used in class will be made available on the course web site.  Efforts will be made to post these notes at least three days before each class, if not sooner.  The best practice is look them over before class, come to class with the notes (printed or on tablet or computer), and write your own notes on my notes during the lecture.

Clickers:  Enclosed pdf names “2016 Clicker TPCloud-Quick Student Guide” has instruction for downloading ResponseWare app (by TruningPoint LTD) and for purchasing and registering a Turning Account License.  This app will be used for both unanimous responses during class work and for class quizzes.  If you already have a “TurningTechnology” clicker, your can exchange it to a free license at the Iowa Book Store (IMU), but ONLY during the first week of classes.  Visit:  http://turningtech.info  for more information.

Lectures:  M,W,F, 10:30-11:20 in W128 CB.

Office Hours:  Professor Kohen:  Mon 9:30 - 10:20 and Tues 10:30-11:20 in E274 CB

TAs:  TBA

Or by appointment

Questions will be answered during class, immediately after class (if permitted by time between classes), during discussions, or during office hours.  If a meeting is needed outside these times, please make an appointment.  TAs will announce their office hours at your first discussion section meeting.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:  For UI policies on academic misconduct, plagiarism and cheating, forgery, student complaints concerning faculty actions, and procedures for complaints, see the Student Academic Handbook:  http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook.
Exams: There will be three regular mid-term exams and a final. The dates of themed-term exams are listed below. The final exam will last two hours and its date will become available toward the end of the semester. All mid-term exams will be held in W128 CB (last names A-N) and W55 CB (last names M-Z). Rooms for finals have not yet been assigned. All exams will be comprehensive, since understanding of material encountered later in the course will require application of concepts learned previously. However, each midterm exam will focus mainly on material covered since the previous exam. Announcements will be made in class regarding the material to be covered on each exam. Generally, topics to be covered on a mid-term exam will conclude with the material presented on the Friday before the exam. The Monday class before the exam will be used as a review session, which will include discussion of the practice exam. On the day of each mid-term exam the class time will be used to answer your questions (i.e., like an office hour but in W128). Coverage of new material will resume on the Friday after the exam.

All exams will be closed-book. Prior to the start of each exam, all extraneous materials (e.g., models, notebooks, papers, backpacks, etc.) should be left at home or brought to the front of the room. Calculators will be provided if needed. The use of any other electronic devices during exams is strictly prohibited. The exams will include some multiple choice questions and some short-answer type questions wherein you will need to write out answers and/or draw chemical structures in spaces provided on the exam itself. All exams must be written in ink, but not red ink. Exams written in pencil or in red or erasable ink, or those on which “white-out” has been used, cannot be regraded. Exams will be graded and returned (through the Chemistry Center, E225 CB) as soon as possible. Exam results and answers will be posted on the course web site via ICON.

Exam Schedule:
- Exam 1: Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 6:30-8:00 PM
- Exam 2: Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 6:30-8:00 PM
- Exam 3: Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 6:30-8:00 PM
- Final Exam: TBA

Regrades: Occasional grading mistakes are unavoidable in a class of this size. If a technical mistake has been made in grading your exam (e.g., scores addition miscalculated, no points to answer that match the key, etc.), please turn it in at the Chemistry Center (E225 CB) for regrading. Write on the front of the exam the number of the question to be checked and an explanation (in one sentence or less) of what you believe was done incorrectly. The entire exam will be reviewed and corrected. Regrade requests must be submitted within one week of the time the graded exams are made available to you (within 24 hours for the final exam). No regrades will be possible after that time. Please note that this procedure is intended to apply to situations where your answer matches the answer posted on the key, but was somehow misgraded. If you disagree with an answer on the key, please discuss the issue with your instructor during office hours.

Make-up Exams: Permission to take a make-up exam will require a valid, written excuse (e.g., from student health services). If you miss a regular exam, you must take the make-up, which will be given on the Friday nine days after the regular exam at 6:30-8:00 PM in room W290 CB. You must register for the make-up (in the Chemistry Center) and provide an acceptable reason before the scheduled time of the regular exam that you miss. Under no circumstances will a make-up be given in place of a regular exam taken earlier. Please approach the instructor regarding such registration only if the Chemistry Center has rejected your request.

Unannounced Quizzes: There will be seven class quizzes throughout the semester (using the Clickers app), but only the top five scores will be included in the cumulative grade at the end of the semester.
Course Grades: Grades will be based on the three regular mid-term exams (100 points each) and the final exam (150 points). Additionally, there will be 7 unannounced quizzes during the semester (10 points each), but only the top 5 grades per students will be included in the cumulative final grade. Total points possible = 500 (3•100+150+5•10). No letter grades will be assigned for midterm exams, but grade distribution will be provided on the ICON/Canvas and during class after each exam. Importantly, the average of each exam and of the final grade will be B-, so you can always assess where you stand grade-wise after each exam based on your score relative to the average score. At the end of the semester, all scores will be totaled (summed), and the resulting sum will be fitted to a standard statistic distribution in order to assign final letter grade. CLAS’s guidelines (available on CLAS’s web site) will be followed in establishing the final grade-distribution, with B- as the class average and +/- grading will be used for final grades.

Drop-Add Slips: Drop/add signatures must be obtained and signed in the Chemistry Center (E225 CB).

Discussion Sections: Discussion sections will be conducted by chemistry TAs. Times and places are listed on ISIS. These are essentially "help sessions" that provide opportunities to ask questions about lecture material, problems from the text, practice exam questions, etc. in a smaller group setting. You may attend more than one per week if you like. Discussion sessions will begin on Monday, Aug. 29 (2nd week of classes).

Other Course Information: Inquiries about exam times and places, times and places of discussion sessions, TA office hours, etc. should be taken to the Chemistry Center (E225 CB; 5-1341). This course is being offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Thus, class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College. These policies are summarized on the last page of this syllabus and can be found at: http://wwwclas.uiowa.edufaculty/teaching/policies.shtml. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Details of the University policy on cross-college enrollments may be found at: http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc.

Public health authorities recommend that people with flu-like illnesses stay home and not return to public spaces until 24 hours after they have no fever. In order to prevent the spread of disease, please do not come to class, meet with other groups of students, attend office hours, or contact offices in person while you are ill with a fever.

Special Needs: The instructors need to hear from anyone who has a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located in 3101 Burge Hall (335-1462). If any such special arrangements are needed for exams, please contact your instructor during office hours and inform the Chemistry Center as well (E225 CB; 5-1341).

Course Outline: The material to be covered this semester will include Chapters 1-13 (included) in the textbook. Any changes will be announced in class. Note that we will directly follow the sequence in the textbook, but approximately 20% of the material covered in class will be from other sources (more so toward the end of the semester).
Some Study Suggestions for Organic Chemistry

A major difference between organic and general chemistry is that there is little or no math involved in introductory organic chemistry courses—topics tend to be presented in a very qualitative way. Thus, you will be most successful in this course if you strive to understand the concepts presented, how they relate to one another, and how they can be applied to new situations you encounter.

Another significant difference is that the exams in organic chemistry are only partially constructed in a multiple choice format—some problems will require you to draw chemical structures, to show details of a process, to write correct terms, etc. To prepare for exams, it is important to become proficient in applying the principles covered, and in understanding and drawing chemical structures. Practice with questions in the textbook, and check your answers in the study guide. Practice writing the answers to problems, especially those that ask you to draw structures. Even if you understand the material, you may find yourself short on time in exams if you have not become proficient in drawing and visualizing chemical structures. Finally, be sure to take the practice exams that will be provided for you before each regular exam. Use a time limit. Check your answers with the key, and investigate the ones you get wrong.

We are required to cover a lot of new material in this course, so it is critical to keep up with the chapter reading and problems. Unfortunately, if you fall behind, it will be very difficult to catch up. This is not the type of course in which you can cram the night before an exam and expect to do well—ask anyone you know who has taken organic chemistry.

Many students use the course notes as a core resource for learning the material, with the textbook serving as a supplement/reference that offers additional detail and provides relevant problems to work. Molecular models can be very useful in helping to learn and understand structural organic chemistry concepts. However, building models can be time-consuming, and you cannot use them during tests.

Come to class. The availability of course notes leads to a natural temptation to skip class. The notes are intended to help you learn, and to enable you to listen in class and make a few extra notes of your own, rather than focus on frantically copying everything. However, they are incomplete without the explanations, emphasis, model demonstrations, and highlighting that will be provided during class. There are many concepts in this course that are truly new to most people, and it is unlikely that you can simply read the notes or the book and understand everything (or be sure what your instructor considers most important...). Most students find that more explanation of this material is needed—not less.

Take advantage of discussion sections. Attendance in discussion sections tends to rise considerably right before exams. However, for those who attend regularly, these sessions offer an opportunity for getting additional help and concept reinforcement in a smaller class setting. It may also be helpful to form study groups with other class members.

Take advantage of office hours offered by your instructors and your TA. 004:121 is a large class, so things do sometimes get a bit crowded, especially as exams loom. Extra office hours will be added before exams in an effort to accommodate everyone. However, as with discussion sections, please remember that office hours are held throughout the semester...
Collegiate Policies & Procedures

The following policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and The University of Iowa Operations Manual.

Administrative Home. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Electronic Communication. University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondence sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondence. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities. A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud. Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental executive officer (DEO) and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies. Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam because the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Suggestions or Complaints. Students with a suggestion or complaint about this course should first visit the instructor, then the DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Understanding Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather. In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue, if possible, when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site.