Organic Chemistry I – Course Overview

Course Instructor
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Meetings, Review workshops
Class Lecture time: MWF 11AM (ISC1127)
Office hours: Tuesday PM TBA; Friday 1:30PM
Evening review sessions: 8:30-10PM preceding exam or quiz.
Office hours may also be arranged by appointment. Don’t hesitate to contact me to schedule a time to meet!

Course Objectives
The objective of the first semester organic chemistry (Chemistry 206) is to understand the structure, bonding, and reactivity of carbon (the essential of living systems) and carbon-containing molecules. The involvement of other elements (e.g., N, O, H) of particular significance are necessarily included. Bonding and structure will enable exploration of the chemistry and reactivity (reactions) of different functional groups. Organic spectroscopy, or how to analyze and visualize organic molecules, is additional topic that will be explored.

Course Evaluation:
Exams
Hour exams (3 x 125 pts):* 375 pts (39–59%)
Final exam:* 250 pts (20–39%)
Problem Sets / Quizzes: 135 pts (21%)
Total Points* 635 points

*Weighting Scheme: I want to grade you on your best effort. Accordingly, I will adhere to the following plan: at the completion of the course, your lowest mean-relative exam performance (125 points) will be dropped. This dropped exam grade may be one of your hour exams or one-half of your final. You cannot drop problem sets or quizzes. This plan provides you the opportunity to have the final exam count between ~20% and ~40% of your final grade. Approximate grade distributions for each exam will be announced in class.

There will be three in-class hour-long exams, one administered roughly every four weeks. Exams will focus on recent topics. With advanced notice, you may reschedule a mid-term exam for a school-related absence. Contact me early. If you miss an exam for another reason (e.g., illness), the missed exam can serve as your dropped exam. There will also be a three-hour comprehensive final exam.

Problem Sets / Quizzes:
Problem sets will be available one week in advance and will be due by the start of class on Friday. Problem sets will be completed online through Sapling Learning. I will post additional practice problems on Sapling. Each problem set will be worth 15 points. No late problem sets will be accepted. In class 10-minute quizzes (3) will be given periodically throughout the term. There are no makeup quizzes. Each quiz will be scaled to 15 points. In total, 7 PS (7 x 15 = 105 pts), 3 quizzes (45 pts) = 10 assignments. You can drop your lowest homework or quiz score; PS/quiz total is 135 pts (21% of your grade).
Grading
Final grades will be determined by the sum of your points throughout the semester by the following scale:
- A–/A 87–100%
- B–/B/B+ 75–86.9%
- C–/C/C+ 63–74.9%
Due to exam curving these thresholds may go down; they will not go up.

Class Attendance
In accord with College policy, class attendance is expected. See undergraduate catalog for more information. Please notify me of any absences by email.

Disability Services
Students with disabilities must contact disability services in the dean of students office.

Honor Code
All students are bound by the Honor Code. Incidences of cheating will be reported to the Honor System. See the student handbook for more information on the Honor Code.

Textbooks:
You may also use the older 6th or 7th Ed, which is virtually unchanged in content (but graphics are somewhat altered).
Strongly Recommended: Organic Chemistry as a second language. (First semester topics) Klein. 4th edition is current. It is hard to find earlier Eds.

Online Homework
Homework and additional practice problems will be completed Sapling learning (http://www.saplinglearning.com). You can try this out for ~14 days (until add/drop) and you will then need to pay the access fee.

Model Kits:
Model kits are strongly recommended and may be used on exams.

Extra Credit Opportunities
Several opportunities exist for extra credit (and you should take full advantage of them). First, you may turn in the info sheet (+3). You can attend any organic departmental seminar (which occur on Fridays at 3 pm). I will announce these lecture opportunities in class and/or on blackboard. You will earn 3 pts for attending these. Other opportunities may be possible throughout the semester.

Everybody likes BACON, another extra credit opportunity (see handout/bb)

What does BACON stand for? Biology And Chemistry Online Notes
What does BACON teach? BACON shows students that organic chemistry is all around them. BACON connects organic chemistry to things like biology, real world applications, and even pop culture. Watch the video embedded here to learn more about BACON: https://learnbacon.com/

Is BACON difficult for students? BACON is designed to be a low stress and fun way for students to gain a greater appreciation for organic chemistry and the remarkable impact it has on our everyday lives. I will be advising the class (see Bacon info sheet) when a BACON tutorial aligns with what we are learning in class. Signing up for BACON and completion of each tutorial (6 for orgo I) will give you insight and 2 pt EC each. There is a small cost ($5) for administration of the program.
Pin# WM206JRS

Extra Credit summary:
Info + seminars (1 or 2) + 6 Bacon = 18-21 points = ~3% of grade.