Course Info and Policies

Instructor: Dr. Richard A. Himes
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Peer Mentor: Danielle Shaddix (shaddixdr@cofc.edu)

Office hours: SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Mon./Wed. 5:00-6:00, Tues. 12:30 – 1:30, Thurs. 3:45-4:45, or by appointment. If I’m in my office and the door is open, I’m willing to take questions. If the door is closed, please understand that you may need to come back another time or make an appointment. Dr. Himes is a busy guy! Additional help sessions may be scheduled during the semester.

Lecture: TR 10:50 AM – 12:05 PM. 322 Maybank

Important dates: Aug. 27: Last day to drop/add Oct. 12: Last day of Express II drop/add
Oct. 24: Last day to withdraw with a grade of ‘W’ Nov. 5-6: Fall Break!
Nov. 21-23: Thanksgiving Dec. 4: Reading Day

IN-CLASS EXAMS:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 11th
Exam 2: Tuesday, October 9th
Exam 3: Thursday, November 8th
Exam 4: Thursday, November 29th

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec. 6, 8-11 am, 322 Maybank


The textbook package sold at the CofC bookstore includes the solutions manual.

ACS Organic Chemistry Study Guide
http://shopping.na1.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.3773982/sc.11/category.191/f

Co-requisite: You must be registered for Chem 231 lab concurrently or have completed the lab course.

Attendance: Attendance is strongly encouraged. Announced (and potentially unannounced) quizzes will be administered in lecture. A missed in-class quiz cannot be made up and will count as a 0. Additionally, material not covered in the textbook may be covered in lecture. You are responsible for material that you miss; office hours will not be used to teach missed topics. Exams: You are expected to take each exam in class, on the dates listed above. Makeup exams will not be administered.

Disabilities: If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services, please feel free to come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

Academic integrity: This course is conducted under the Honor Code of the College of Charleston (http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/HonorBoard?HonorBoard.htm). Review the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry's policy on Scientific Integrity (http://www.cofc.edu/~chem/advising/integ.pdf).

Email: Email is considered an official method for communication at the College of Charleston. If students wish to have email redirected from the official College-issued account to another email address (e.g., @gmail.com, @hotmail.com),
they may do so, but at their own risk. Having email redirected does not absolve the student from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to his or her College account. The College is not responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors or unofficial servers. Students are expected to check their CofC official email frequently for College related communications. Checking email on a daily basis is recommended. Students are responsible for reading all time-sensitive communications. "I didn't check my email", forwarding errors, or email returned to the College with “Mailbox Full” or “User Unknown” are not acceptable excuses for missing official College communications via email. *Please check your e-mail frequently and carefully read each e-mail from the instructor.*

### Course Performance and Evaluation

**Grades:** Assignment weighting and the grading scale for the course are below. You are responsible for picking up graded assignments, either in class or the instructor’s office. Graded papers cannot be left in public areas nor will grades be distributed by e-mail or over the phone. Please come to office hours if you need to discuss your grade and class performance.

**Formula:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 in-class exams, 175 pts each</td>
<td>700 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LearnSmart Prep – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11 PM, AUGUST 29th</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes / Homework: Unannounced (“pop”) or announced quizzes.</td>
<td>95 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group homework.

| Final Exam: Standardized ACS exam. | 175 points |
| **TOTAL** | 1000 points |

If your final exam score is higher than your average in-class exam score, your final exam score will take the place of your lowest midterm score. In that case, the final would be worth 350 points, and your three highest in-class exam scores would be worth a total of 525 points.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>68-71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scores will not be rounded. A percentage of 91.99 will remain an A-, for example. Rounding is stressful.

**LearnSmart Prep:** This online assignment is due before 11 pm on Wednesday, August 29th. The software package is called LearnSmart Prep and it will take each student through an individualized chemistry review of important material from CHEM 111 and CHEM 112. A link to directions for accessing and completing the assignment is posted on the chemistry department website, under Resources, LearnSmart Prep for CHEM 231. [http://chemistry.cofc.edu/currentstudents/resources/index.php](http://chemistry.cofc.edu/currentstudents/resources/index.php)

**OAKS:** Be sure to FREQUENTLY access OAKS, as I will use it extensively for course materials. Practice problems, blank lecture slides, last semester's lecture slides, this semester's lecture slides, and supplemental material will be posted under the Content section of our OAKS page. In addition, I will post short video lecture modules, usually on Thursdays (though sometimes on different days). These modules are required viewing, and each Tuesday lecture that is not an exam day will begin with a quiz on the previous week's modules.

**Quizzes/Homework:** Quizzes will be given at the beginning of lecture on certain days, generally including ALL Tuesdays that are not exam days. Many of these quizzes will cover the previous week's video modules on OAKS, which are designed to (1) make sure you are working on material between Thursday and Tuesday's lectures, and (2) free up in-class time to work more and more challenging practice problems. The intention is to make sure that you keep up with course material and practice problems as we cover new material. The difficulty of the material
necessitates that you study the topics and work many practice problems daily, throughout the semester, not just the day before an exam. The two (2) lowest quiz grades will be dropped, but only one (1) unexcused 0 will be dropped.

Graded homework assignments may be given, especially in the latter two-thirds of the semester when we cover reactions and mechanisms. These assignments will include more challenging problems that require you to apply multiple concepts to solving them. Graded homework will be given as group assignments, to be worked with classmates.

**Practice problems:** Practicing problems is absolutely critical to learning and understanding organic chemistry and, in general, the more practice you SUCCESSFULLY complete, the better your performance in the course. It is recommended that you complete ALL of the textbook problems in each chapter that we cover. Additional recommended problem sets will be distributed or posted on OAKS. You are not required to complete them; HOWEVER – the best way to learn organic chemistry is to continually practice problems! The more you do, the more you learn.

**Exams:** Four in-class exams will be given during regular class meetings on the dates provided above. The ACS final can replace your in-class exam grade if doing so will improve your average and if (and only if): 1. You personally have taken all four exams; 2. Your final exam score is higher than your average in-class exam score; and 3. The entire class has a response rate of greater than 75% for the online course evaluations at the end of the semester. Missed exams may not be made up. Your final exam grade will take the place of the zero (0) for one missed exam.

**Final Exam:** A standardized, timed, multiple-choice test prepared by the American Chemical Society. Scores are curved based on national norms. The prep guide for this exam is available for purchase and at the library.

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**Course Learning Outcomes and Topics**

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate basic communication skills within organic chemistry for example structure, nomenclature, mechanisms, reaction schemes
- Define and use fundamental concepts associated with physical organic chemistry
- Use foundational skills of organic reactions to predict organic reaction outcomes

**Course Outline:** The following chapters of Carey/Giuliano 10th ed. will be covered in the following order. However, **MATERIAL NOT PRESENT IN THE TEXTBOOK MAY BE COVERED IN LECTURE.**

- Chapter 1: Structure, Acid/Base, etc.
- Chapter 2: Intro to hydrocarbons
- Chapter 3: Conformational analysis
- Chapter 4: Chirality
- Chapter 5: Alcohols/Alkyl halides - Rxn intro
- Chapter 6: Nucleophilic Substitution
- Chapter 7: Eliminations
- Chapter 8: Additions to Alkenes
- Chapter 9: Alkynes
- Chapter 10: Free Radicals
- Chapter 11: Conjugation (Dienes/Allylic, etc.)
- Chapter 12: Arenes/Aromaticity
- Chapter 13: Electrophilic aromatic substitution and nucleophilic aromatic substitution
NOTE: Chapter 14.20-14.25 (Spectroscopy (IR and MS)) covers material that will be introduced in lab Experiment III. You WILL be responsible for IR and MS once covered in lab, but this material will not be covered further in lecture. Feel free to ask question about spectroscopy in office hours.

**Suggestions for Approaching Organic Chemistry**

Organic chemistry builds on itself. The topics we cover the first week will be indispensable for understanding those covered the second week, and so on throughout the semester. DO NOT GET BEHIND! You should be devoting several hours of study for each hour of lecture.

First off: READ in advance of the lectures. You will understand more in lecture if you read ahead. You will come up with informative questions to ask if you read ahead. You will be able to spend more time *listening* in lecture as opposed to trying to write every detail down in your notebook.

The next step will be to WORK PROBLEMS. Lots of them. *Practice Practice Practice*. You should work ALL of the textbook problems. Working a problem does not mean looking at the question, immediately looking at the solution, and then telling yourself, “Yeah, I can do that.” You need to be able to successfully solve the problems WITHOUT LOOKING AT ANSWERS, on your own, and as efficiently as possible.

Here are suggestions:

1. Do as many problems as you can from our textbook, on OAKS, from other textbooks, and other resources (e.g., online).
2. Go to peer mentor meetings.
3. Go to office hours.
4. Do more problems.
5. Get a tutor if you want one (sooner rather than later).
6. Overall, do problems and get help if you need it.

**Before class:** Read and become familiar with the material prior to each class meeting. *As you read and prepare prior to class, think of specific questions you may wish to ask in lecture.*

**During class:** Participate! I encourage and expect questions. Questions help me evaluate what you have understood and when I need to be clearer. When preparing for class, jot down potential questions you may want to ask — the more focused and specific, the more you will get out of the answer. (Coming up with a good, focused question is an excellent way to pinpoint what you understand and what you don’t.)

**After class:** No, really — why aren’t you working more problems?? Go work problems!