Course Info and Policies

Instructor: Dr. Richard A. Himes
Office: 110 SSMB (New Science)
e-mail: himesra@cofc.edu  Phone: (843) 953-3618

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.

Meeting time and place: T 1:40 PM – 2:30 PM, 138 SSMB

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

This course is designed to help you orally engage in organic chemistry with your peers to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for organic chemistry. This class is meant to be an environment where you are expected to make mistakes (no one is perfect) and talk through and hopefully correct any misunderstanding you or your peers may have. Your grade will be based on your willingness and ability to communicate with each other and with the instructor about organic chemistry.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be a take home, open book, open notes assignment. You may begin to work on the final exam assignment as soon as it is posted on OAKS. The final exam assignment is due by the start of the examination period assigned for TR 10:50 courses; however you are strongly encouraged to submit your completed assignment before taking your CHEM 231 lecture final examination.


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

Attendance: Due to the participatory nature of this course attendance is required. You are allowed TWO absences, but for each missed absence you will be required to complete a homework assignment prior to 8 am the following Monday. If you do not complete the assignment on time you will get a grade of “0” for all missed work. You will receive grades of “0” for all worked missed after the second absence.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to logically discuss and explain organic chemistry principles, mechanisms and reactions.

Class Format: The format of the class is subject to change, but it will hopefully always involve everyone’s active participation. At the beginning of each class students will be sorted into teams of three or four. Each team will work together to formulate responses to discussion questions; to critique postulates, and to evaluate responses of other teams. Each team will get a designated spokesperson for the day, and communication by that team should come from that team’s spokesperson. Each student will be expected to present explanations of problem answers as team spokesperson several times during the semester, and participation as spokesperson is part of the course grade.
OAKS: Course material and grades will be posted on OAKS. Course material will include weekly sheets with problems to work, questions to answer, or prompts to consider in order to spark discussion. You will be expected to complete these sheets prior to the week's course meeting. Evidence of completion will be written answers (in a notebook or on a sheet) and preparedness for discussion.

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 CoC 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.

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Grading Scale

100-93 (A); 92-90 (A-); 89-87 (B+); 86-83 (B); 82-80 (B-); 79-77 (C+); 76-73 (C);
72-70 (C-); 69-67 (D+); 66-63 (D); 62-60 (D-); 59-0 (F)

Grading in this course is highly subjective, based in part on the instructor’s assessment of each student’s willingness to effectively communicate and to logically consider the understanding of introductory organic chemistry by (1) themselves, (2) their peers, and (3) the instructor. Participation grades will be posted on OAKS. Disagreement with a posted grade must be addressed with the instructor in person (not by email or phone) within 2 weekdays of the posting.

Go work problems!