Course Info and Policies

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

Office hours: SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Mon: 5-6 PM, Tues: 12:30-1:30 PM, Wed: 5-6 PM, or by appointment. Before our lecture may be good as well, but not always. 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! The instructor will host additional help sessions during the semester, scheduled prior to exams.

Lecture: TR 10:50 AM – 12:05 PM, 233 JSC

Important dates:  
Aug 27: Last day to drop/add  
Sep 28&29: Potential storm days  
Oct 11: Last day of Express II drop/add  
Oct 14-15: Fall break (storm days)  
Oct 16: Midterm grades due  
Oct 25: Last day to withdraw with a grade of 'W'  
Nov 27-Dec 1: Thanksgiving break  
Dec 3: Reading day

IN-CLASS EXAMS:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 10th  
Exam 2: Tuesday, October 8th  
Exam 3: Thursday, October 31st (spooky!)  
Exam 4: Tuesday, November 26th

Dates are subject to change. ALL exams are currently scheduled as in-class, closed-book exams.

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 10th, 8-11 am, 233 JSC


Optional texts:  

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.

Storm Makeup and Assignments Policy: If the College of Charleston closes and members of the community are evacuated due to inclement weather, students are responsible for taking course materials with them in order to continue with course assignments consistent with instructions provided by faculty. In cases of
extended periods of institution-wide closure where students have relocated, instructors may articulate a plan that allows for supplemental academic engagement despite these circumstances. This plan plus the necessary materials to carry it out will be provided by the instructor and posted on OAKS. At a minimum, if the school is closed for inclement weather, you should be prepared to take your (1) textbook, (2) class notes, and (3) class schedule of topics and practice problems with you when evacuating, or be prepared to access these materials online, to continue any assignments provided to you by the instructor.

**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](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](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 in 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>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class exams</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEKS Prep – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11 PM on module DUE DATES (9/4, 9/19)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes / Homework: Unannounced (&quot;pop&quot;) or announced quizzes. Group homework.</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam: Standardized ACS exam.</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
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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 in-class exam score.

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<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>72-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
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Scores will not be rounded. A percentage of 91.99 will remain an A-, for example. Rounding is stressful.
ALEKS Prep assignment: This online assignment contains two separate modules with due dates of 11 pm on Wednesday, September 4th for the first module, and Monday, September 19th for the second module. The software package is called ALEKS and it will take each student through an individualized chemistry review of important material from CHEM 111 and CHEM 112 plus preparatory material for organic chemistry. You should have received an email from department chair Dr. Pamela Riggs-Gelasco with instructions for accessing and using ALEKS. If you did not, PLEASE contact Dr. Himes as soon as possible.

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. Plus, video modules...

Video Modules: I will post short(-ish) video lecture modules on OAKS. Most of these videos will be required viewing. These video modules are designed to: (1) cover some of the fundamental material in 231, which you may then re-watch for better learning; (2) give you material to consider between Thursday of one week and Tuesday of the next; (3) free up time in lecture so that we may work more example problems, go more in depth into material, and learn more about how organic chemistry applies to other fields (e.g., medicine). 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.

Quizzes/Homework: Quizzes may be given at the beginning of lecture on certain days, and homework assignments (often as group assignments) may be given on Thursday to be completed by Tuesday's lecture meeting. Quizzes and homework may incorporate material from video modules or reading, even if that material has not been discussed in lecture at that point.

Practice problems: Practicing problems is absolutely critical to learning and understanding organic chemistry. In general, the more practice you SUCCESSFULLY complete, the better your performance in the course. A rough schedule for keeping up with recommended textbook problems and problem sets on OAKS will be provided at the start of each unit. 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 lowest 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes and Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Outcomes:</strong> By the end of this course, students will be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Demonstrate basic communication skills within organic chemistry for example structure, nomenclature, mechanisms, reaction schemes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Define and use fundamental concepts associated with physical organic chemistry</td>
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<td>• Use foundational skills of organic reactions to predict organic reaction outcomes</td>
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| 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 6: Nucleophilic Substitution
Chapter 7: Eliminations
Chapter 5: Alcohols
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. You WILL be responsible for IR and MS in lecture once those topics are 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 — yes, several hours. Organic chemistry is a challenging course even for students entering with very high performance in other science courses.

First off: READ in advance of the lectures, and WATCH the video modules. 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? WORK PROBLEMS. Lots of them. PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE. "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.

Notice that the previous paragraph is in bold. So you know it’s important…

Here are suggestions!

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! Go to peer mentor meetings! Come to office hours and ask me questions – I get lonely! If you feel you need a tutor, find one sooner rather than later. Practice, practice, practice!