Organic Chemistry

Course meetings: MWF 10:30 – 11:20 am Bilger 152

Instructor: W. Chain chain@hawaii.edu
Bilger 205B 808-956-5795

Office hours TBD.

Course Objective: The objective of Chemistry 272 is to introduce students to a series of topics in organic chemistry, including (but not limited to) structure, bonding, functional groups, acid/base theory, reactions, stereochemistry, and spectroscopy.

Course Eligibility: Undergraduates must have passed Chemistry 162 or Chemistry 181 with a grade of C (not C–) or higher. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams, one administered approximately every four weeks. These will focus on recent topics. There will also be a comprehensive final exam. The exam schedule is as follows:
- Wednesday, February 8
- Wednesday, March 7
- Wednesday, April 11

Final exam: Friday, May 11, 9:45 am – 11:45 am

There will be no make-up exams for any reason. Instead, an exam score will be manufactured from your final exam score. This score will replace your lowest normalized midterm exam score, or serve to replace a zero should you miss an exam for a valid medical excuse – absence from an examination will be excused only if certified by a written statement from a physician. If you cannot provide this statement, a score of zero will be assigned. I will confirm your statements with your physician. Therefore, your final exam can weigh between 38% and 50% of your final grade, whichever is to your advantage.

Problem Sets: You will receive a list of homework problems at the beginning of each topic. The answers to all problems are found in the Solutions Manual. Although the homework will not be collected or graded, it is absolutely essential that you do all the problems in order to gain an understanding of the concepts involved. Organic chemistry is not learned by passively reading the textbook. There will be graded, in-class pop quizzes derived from your lists of homework problems.

Grading Scheme:
- Midterm exams (three): 300 points
- Final exam: 300 points
- Quizzes (10): 200 points

Code of Conduct: Academic honesty policies can be found at the following website: http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/I have a zero tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Any case of
academic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade of ‘F’ in the course and your case will be referred to the Student Conduct Administrator. This document serves as your only warning, and there will be no second chances and no exceptions to this policy.

Disabilities: The University of Hawaii is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, dedicated to teaching all students and reaching all learners. It is our commitment to make our lectures and classrooms accessible to all students. If you have, or think you might have, a disability and have not voluntarily disclosed its nature and the support you need, you are invited to contact the UH KOKUA Program (http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/ or (808) 956-7511), or talk with the instructor in order to get any accommodation you might need to take the course. This information will be kept confidential. Please do this as early in the course as possible.


These have been placed on reserve at Sinclair Library.

Molecular models: You are strongly encouraged to purchase a molecular model kit such as those available at the UH bookstore. You may also find suitable organic chemistry model kits for sale online (I recommend: Andrus Education – http://www.andruseducation.com – this is the nicest and least expensive kit I have seen offered). A model set is particularly useful for understanding stereochemical problems in organic chemistry.

Website: Exams, sample exams, handouts, and assignments will be posted on Laulima. If you are a registered student in the class and do not have Chem 272 listed as one of your courses when you go to Laulima, follow the instructions on Laulima for adding Chem 272.

Studying: Throughout the semester, we will be discussing a large amount of difficult material in a short amount of time. It is critical that you do not fall behind in your studies. Often, understanding of new material in organic chemistry relies upon mastery of previously discussed ideas. I urge you to review your class notes immediately after class and clear up ambiguities while the subject is still fresh in your mind. I emphasize to you here and I will repeat this often during the course: do problems, practice, and try to understand the underlying concepts and themes. DO NOT attempt to memorize your way through organic chemistry.

An important component of your study will be the suggested practice problems in your textbook and in the solutions manual. It is often said that you cannot study organic chemistry without a pencil in your hand. Please make the effort to use these problems in your studies and consult the solutions only after you have worked out your own answers.