Laboratory for Synthesis and Analysis of Organic Compounds

Course meetings:
- Section 1: Monday  12:30 -5:20 pm  Bilger Addition 217
- Section 2: Thursday 12:00 -5:00 pm  Bilger Addition 217

Teaching Assistants: Cody Dickson  cfd4@hawaii.edu

Instructor: P. Williams  philipwi@hawaii.edu
            Bilger 245A  808-956-5720

Office hours by appointment.

Course Objective: The objective of Chemistry 445L is for students to develop a broader practical understanding of modern techniques and instrumentation used in a synthetic organic chemistry laboratory. CHEM 445L has WI classification, so expect to do a fair amount of writing, to have this writing critiqued and to revise your write-ups on the basis of that feedback before a final grade is assigned to your report. In keeping with the rules governing the assignment of the "WI" designation, the writing part of this course will earn you a significant portion of the final grade of the lab course. The purpose is to teach you to write technical reports accurately, concisely and to communicate your findings clearly. Shoddily produced documents, ridden with spelling and grammatical errors, will be returned without review (Note that scientific terms often are underlined in red by MS Word despite being spelt correctly).

Prerequisites: Chem 273 and Chem 273L; Declared Chemistry or Biochemistry Major

Corequisites: Chem 445

Grading:
- Chemical Literature Report  70 points
- Chemical Characterization Report  70 points
- General Lab Techniques  200 points
  (TA Eval of Skills, % completion of synthesis, responsiveness to revision comments)
- Synthesis Report # 1  20 points
  (Intro Exp 1-4, Exp 1 + NMR Analysis, No Discussion)
- Synthesis Report # 2  60 points
  (Revised Syn 1, Exp 2: Exp+ NMR Analysis, Discussion Exp 1 & Exp 2)
- Synthesis Report # 3  120 points
  (Syn 1, Revised Exp 2, Exp 3: Exp + NMR Analysis, Revised Discussion part 1-2, Discussion Part 3)
- Final Synthesis Report  160 points
  (Synthesis Exp 1-4; all components)

The synthesis report will be submitted in four parts that will eventually comprise the majority of final report. Feedback provided by TAs on each individual report should be incorporated into each subsequent draft, as a portion of points are allocated for the revisited content. The expectation is that the final report will incorporate all feedback and conform with publications standards for an ACS journal. All reports should contain the fruits of your reading about the techniques used and by fully referenced. Failure to reference appropriately is plagiarism and will result in an automatic “F” in the course.
A final report on the multi-step synthesis should be at least 10 pages long excluding supplementary materials and attachments. In this paper, you will document the characterization of the materials you have prepared and interpret the data to prove to me, the reader, that you have made the compounds you claim you made. The goal here is to be both succinct and comprehensive.

The remainder of the points (200 points) will be assessed based on:
1) level of preparation for the lab
2) effort and attitude (if you let you lab partner do all the work, expect a low grade!)
3) success in your laboratory work (yield, purity, number of times a reaction has to be repeated).
4) Responsiveness to feedback in written reports.

Writing Intensive: Attached to this syllabus is a "writing rubric" that will be used to evaluate the reports you will be submitting.

The general format for a full paper in Journal of Organic Chemistry is to be followed. A laboratory report has a brief Introduction into the problem you have been studying; a Results section in which you document your measurements and calculations; a Discussion section in which you document what you have learned from performing the experiment and place your results into the context of the background materials you have read; an Experimental section in which you describe how you performed the experiments in sufficient detail that somebody could reproduce your results. Figures are referenced in the text in order of appearance and figures have Legends, brief descriptions of what the figure is purported to show. Explain any symbols used. Schemes are similarly numbered in order of appearance in the text and have brief Headers, brief descriptions of what the scheme is about. References point the reader to material that you have consulted. References are numbered consecutively in the text. Use a consistent format: denote references by superscript numbers. In a separate reference section list these references. Please follow American Chemical Society format outlined in the ACS style guide (e.g., Clueless, I. M.; Knownot, I. M. J. Irreproduc. Res. 2009, 10, 176-178.)

Code of Conduct: Academic honesty policies can be found at the following website: http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with these rules. Any student caught violating the policies on plagiarism or cheating will receive a grade of an “F” in the course.

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.