

Organic chemistry I – CHEM340 – summer 2017

June 5th – 30th, 2017

MTWF 8:30am – 11:30am

TCCW 402

Instructor:

Dr. Lawrence Hill

Office: TCCW 115

Phone: 270-745-2136

Email: lawrence.hill@wku.edu (I generally respond by close of the following business day)

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in TCCW 115

Course materials:

Required: Solomons Organic Chemistry, 11th Edition; Sapling subscription

Recommended: ACS Organic Chemistry Exam Study Guide; portable model kit

Prerequisites: CHEM 222-223 (C or better); **Corequisite:** CHEM 341

Course description:

The general principles of organic chemistry will be introduced in this course, which includes chapters 1 – 9 of Solomons Organic Chemistry, 11th Edition. Students will learn to predict the structure of organic molecules and suggest reasonable reaction mechanisms. Demonstrating mastery of these skills requires effective communication. Therefore, we will emphasize the language of organic chemistry including organic nomenclature, drawing structural representations, and curved arrow notation.

Course learning objectives:

By the end of this course, students will learn to:

1. Use the vocabulary of organic chemistry. (nomenclature)
2. Draw correct structural representations of organic molecules. (structure)
3. Write reasonable mechanisms and predict products with correct stereochemistry. (reactions)

Grading:

Your grade will be determined based on 500 possible points in this course. See below about dropped grades.

- **Exams: keep only your best three regular exams (100 points each) = 300 points.**
Four regular exams will be given during the semester at your regularly scheduled class time. Each exam is worth 100 points, and you keep your best three exam grades. If you miss an exam, then you earn a zero for that exam. Many exam questions will be adapted from the text book and Sapling.
- **Final exam = 100 points.**
We will use a standardized ACS exam designed for the first semester of organic chemistry. You are required to take the final exam (it cannot be dropped from your grade).
- **Quizzes: keep only your best five quizzes (10 points each) = 50 points.**
A minimum of seven quizzes will be given throughout the semester, and you keep your best five quiz grades to calculate your “quiz grade.” Each quiz is worth 10 points. Quizzes will take place in class and questions will be *very similar to the in-chapter problems* in the current or preceding sections of the text. There is the possibility of a quiz being given during each class meeting.
- **Sapling homework = 50 points.**
Each chapter will have assigned Sapling problems with an assigned due date for completion. You will have unlimited attempts to answer the homework problems. Use these problems and the associated feedback to reinforce concepts learned from your reading. Additional, ungraded, practice problems will be available in Sapling for your use.

Letter grade scale:

You should plan on the following assignment of letter grades. I reserve the right to change the grading scale, but I will never make the grading scale more difficult than shown below.

A = (100 – 88%), B = (76 – 87%), C = (64 – 75%), D = (50 – 63%), F = (0 – 49%)

There are **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** in this class without **prior** agreement from the instructor. If you miss an exam you will earn a zero for that exam, and you keep only your best three regular exam grades. If you miss more than one regular exam for university-approved reasons, then you may take an incomplete for this course. **Both** missed exams must be properly documented for the grade of incomplete to be approved. The final exam is weighted equally with regular exams. All exams are cumulative. All exams will be announced in advance.

There are **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES** in this class without **prior** agreement from the instructor. If you miss a quiz you will earn a zero for that quiz, and you keep only your best five quiz grades. A minimum of seven quizzes will be given during the course. You can only benefit from taking more quizzes, since each quiz is another chance to improve your grade. Quizzes are not announced in advance.

There are **NO EXTENSIONS FOR SAPLING DUE DATES**. No exceptions.

I will not discuss grades by email or by phone. You must speak to me in person about your grade.

Some tips for succeeding in this course:

- **Prepare for class** by reading ahead and working Sapling and in-chapter problems. Lectures will be much more beneficial to you if you are familiar with the material and ready to ask questions in class.
- **Be an active learner**. Participate. Draw, sketch, write, ask questions, suggest answers, and critically evaluate information from all sources. Engage as much as possible.
- **Use all of the resources available to you**. Examples include your instructor, your peers, the text, the upper division study room (TCCW 369) and the internet.
- **Drawing structures correctly is critical to your success**. You must practice drawing structures in order to learn how to draw structures. Structures are a form of language which you will learn through practice.
- **Ask questions** and speak up if you are confused. Your peers will thank you for helping them understand.
- **Allot regular time** for studying the material. Immersion in the subject is important for learning this challenging new language. Cramming will absolutely not work for this course.
- **Use the student learning objectives** posted on Blackboard. Exam questions come from these objectives.
- **Go to the study room (TCCW 369)**. Study groups are a great way to learn. Work problems with your colleagues outside of class. Teaching is an efficient way to learn a subject because it requires you to organize your thoughts. Take turns asking and answering questions in your study groups.
- **Ace the quizzes!** There is the possibility of a quiz every week. Read the chapter, work the in-chapter problems, and re-read the chapter if you are unable to work the problems. Come prepared for a quiz.
- **Come to office hours** with questions about the problems. Bring your friends – groups are best. Email me for an appointment if you can't make it to regularly scheduled office hours.
- **Rewrite your notes**, organize your notes, or summarize your notes after class. Use the organization of your book to help structure your notes. All lectures are organized based on the text.
- **Probably the most important – make an effort to have fun with the material**. Get creative with the material and create lasting memories! Draw cartoons which recapitulate information. Write silly jokes, puns, or rhymes. Just make something. *If you make it, then it is very likely that you will remember it.* Further, *being calm or happy facilitates learning*. Run a search on the following phrase online if you have any doubts: “how stress affects memory and learning.” Read about how stress affects learning.

Students with disabilities:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Discrimination and Harassment

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>

and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Attendance:

Please show up on time, stay the entire class period, and wait until class is dismissed to pack your belongings. Please leave quietly and respectfully if necessary. Attendance is not graded, but there are no make-up quizzes or exams without prior instructor approval. I strongly recommend attending every lecture.

Technology (e.g., phones, computers, tablets)

Use of technology must be approved by the instructor **prior to the start of class**. For example: if you are expecting a truly urgent phone call, you must approach me in person before class and tell me that you may need to leave to take an important call. I will ask you to put your phone on vibrate and sit near the door in case you need to leave. Otherwise, phones must be off before coming to class. Computers and tablets are generally not allowed. Texting, typing, or other distractions are not allowed during class.

Acceptable behavior:

You are expected to prepare for class, interact with your peers, attend class, ask relevant questions, participate in the guided discussion, and be a good citizen. Any other behavior is likely to be unacceptable.

Academic dishonesty (<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>):

*"Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or **a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal.**"*

Changes to the syllabus

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus throughout the semester. I will inform you of any changes.