SPRING 2026
Chem 2323-Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry
Section 10262
Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm **Room 160-Fleming**

Instructor: Dr. Olafs Daugulis olafs@uh.edu (subject line: Chem 2323), 439 STL
Problem solving sessions: 7:00-8:00 pm Th (after the lecture; room 160-Fleming)
Office hours: by appointment. Email me and I will get back to you with a convenient time.
Text: John McMurry: Organic Chemistry, 10th ed. Free from Openstax. Solutions manual can be downloaded as well.
Molecular models strongly suggested (will be able to use during exams)
You do NOT need to buy any access codes. There is nothing on Canvas.
Grading: 3 evening exams (60% of the grade; lowest grade dropped), and a final exam (40%).
NO MAKE UPS!
Quizzes: UNANNOUNCED quizzes are open notes but not open textbook or neighbor's quiz.
Exam Schedule: 1. Friday, February 20, 5:30-7 PM
2. Friday, March 27, 5:30-7 PM
3. Friday, April 24, 5:30-7 PM
FINAL EXAM: TBD May, 8-10 AM
Persons requiring assistance under ADA guidelines please contact me immediately.
Last day to drop without hours counting towards enrollment cap: February 4. Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade: February 4. Last day to drop a course or withdraw: April 22.

Course Outline

Date	*Chapter*	*Problems*
Jan 20, 22	**1: Structure, Bonding**	1.18-21; 24a, c, d; 25-27; 28b, c; 29-39; 41-56
Jan 27, 29	**2: Bonds; Acids, Bases**	2.20-30; 35-38; 40-41; 43-48; 52; 55-57; 60-61; 63-65
Feb 3, 5	**3: Alkanes**	3.19-20; 22-25; 26b, c; 27-39; 42; 44; 48-49; 53
Feb 10	**4: Cycloalkanes**	4.22; 25; 27-33; 37-39; 41; 44-46; 54-55
Feb 12, 17	**6: Organic Reactions**	6.17; 19-23; 26-39; 41; 43-44; 46-47
FEB 20 - EXAM 1 (Ch 1-4, 6)		
Feb 19, 24	**5: Stereochemistry**	5.30; 32-37; 39-55; 62-67; 71-74
Feb 26, Mar 3	**10: Organohalides**	10.18-20; 22-26; 28-36b,c; 38; 40b,c; 45
Mar 5, 10, 12, 24	**11: Substitutions, Eliminations**	11.25-28; 36; 39-45; 47-48; 50-52; 55-62; 65, 69-70; 75
Mar 27 - EXAM 2 (Ch 5, 10, 11)		
Mar 26, Apr 2	**7: Alkene Structure, Reactivity**	7.26-31; 33-48; 53-61; 64; 66-67; 11.68

Apr 7, 9 **8: Alkene Reactions, Synthesis** 8.26-32; 36; 38-52; 56-62; 64-65; 67; 69-70; 10.21; 10.36a; 10.39, 10.40a; 11.31; 11.71

Apr 14 **9: Alkynes, Synthesis** 9.18-19; 21-23; 24a, c; 25-48; 56-57

Apr 16, 21 **17: Alcohols, Phenols** 17.25-36; 37a-e; 38; 39a, b, d; 40-46; 47a, b, c, g, h; 48a, d; 49-50; 57; 61-63; 65; 67-68; 70; 72

Apr 24 - EXAM 3 (Ch 7-9, 17)

Apr 23 **12: MS, IR** 12.27; 30-37; 43; 45-46

Apr 28, 30 **13: NMR** 13.34-39; 42-47; 49; 50-55; 57-59

TBA - 8-10 AM FINAL EXAM (Chapters 1-13, 17)

1. All drops are the responsibility of the student.
2. ALL GRADED WORK SHOULD BE DONE INDIVIDUALLY. The UH Academic Honesty Policy is in effect. **All graded exams are copied**.
3. All quizzes and exams are closed book. Model kits are the only external things allowed. Books, notes, cell phones, calculators etc MUST be left in your **closed** bag.
4. Students who need accommodations are responsible for communicating these to me.
5. **YOU CAN NOT TAKE CHEM 1311, CHEM 1312, OR CHEM 2325 CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS COURSE.**
6. Grades are assigned based on performance and not need ("I will lose a scholarship, I will not enter med school if you give me this grade, I will not graduate on time" etc will not work). The ONLY way of getting out of a failed grade after the drop date is medical withdrawal **FROM ALL CLASSES IN GIVEN SEMESTER. There will be no extra credit – do not even ask!**
7. Class website: http://olafs.chem.uh.edu/teach.html
8. NO RECORDING DURING CLASS!!!
9. Regrades. If there is an addition error on exam, I will correct it without regrading anything else. If you want a question regraded, I will regrade the whole test and you may get points added or subtracted to your total score. Make sure that +1 point in Question 1 is not accompanied by -10 points in Question 2. Submit a regrade no later than 7 days after the exam. How to request a regrade: write me an email with an explanation where you think is a grading error and directly say that you want a regrade. I will not accept pictures; everything must be in text. Any change in the exam you show me which has been introduced after it was graded constitutes cheating and you will get 0 for this test without possibility of dropping the test score and the class.
10. Syllabus is subject to modification without notice if circumstances change.
11. If you have a documented and university approved excuse for missing any exam you are responsible for communicating this to me by email for a minimum of 10 days before the exam. If this is not communicated timely, you will have to use this as a drop exam.
12. Uploading or viewing ANY course materials, including lectures, problem sets, or Exams to Chegg or other unauthorized websites at any time during this semester (1/2026-5/2026) constitutes violation of University honesty and copyright policies. You or someone who has access to your Chegg or a similar account uploading or viewing any exam materials for this semester on any unauthorized website will result in a failed grade or worse. Chegg provides University with information if requested.
13. You can miss one Midterm without any consequences. However, if you miss more than one Midterm for any reason, you will be dropped from the class. University Excused Absence Policy: Excused absences under this policy may be granted for a maximum percentage of coursework as determined by the instructor in each class, typically 15%. Coursework limit may include exams, quizzes, and homework. https://uh.edu/provost/students/student-policies/excused-absence-policy/index

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY/GRADE INFO

1. Come to class. If you miss class, copy BY HAND notes from someone in the class. Taking pictures of the notes will not help as it is you, and not your phone, who needs this information in memory.
2. (a) Watching organic chemistry videos on youtube does not substitute for coming to class, studying, and doing homework problems! It may be helpful, but watching videos without doing problems is insufficient.
(b) Doing random problems found in internet tubes is not helpful as these are often full of errors. Need more problems – ask me or use www.chem3331.com.
3. Read textbook BEFORE coming to class. You will be able to specifically ask questions about material you have trouble understanding. Furthermore, seeing material for the second time will help you understand it much better.
4. Try to do all homework – doing only the assigned problems is the minimum required. Do not look at homework answers before you have solved the problem – you will not be provided answers to peek into during tests!
5. Ask questions before, during and after the lectures. At other times, email me questions and I will usually answer those within a few hours. HOWEVER – be specific in asking questions by email as I will not retype textbook in my answer.
Example of a good question: does methyl iodide react by SN1 or SN2 and why. Example of a bad question: Please tell me about SN1 reaction as I was busy texting during lecture.
6. Attend problem solving sessions on Thu after class. You do NOT need to sign up and pay for them, they are voluntary. On Thu before the exam, we will work a sample test from previous year.
7. If you can, sign up for the workshop. Check for the teaching style of TA who runs your section – talk to previous year students if they liked that TA.
8. Thinking about the grade and studying hard must start at the beginning of semester. Very few students can succeed if they slack off at the beginning.
9. Grade cutoffs and distributions in last few years:
S2013: A above 87, B above 75, C above 63, D above 50.
Grade distribution: A 54, A- 1, B+ 7, B 37, B- 2, C+ 3, C 40, D+ 2, D 35, D- 2, F 17, W 34.
S2019: A above 87, B above 75, C above 63, D above 48.
Grade distribution: A 53, A- 6, B+ 7, B 52, B- 5, C+ 3, C 56, C- 7, D 41, D- 8, F 28, W 35.
S2021 (mostly online): A above 86, B above 73, C above 61, D above 45.
Grade distribution: A 43, A- 2, B+ 2, B 29, B- 6, C+ 6, C 34, C- 6, D 39, D- 6, F 64, W 41

Grade cutoffs this year likely will be within a point or two from the ones above.

Final calculation of points:
(a) drop lowest midterm score, (b) add 2 midterms + Final, (c) divide number by 3.35.
Please note that Midterms are 100 pts each, Final 135 pts.

Free tutoring is available from the following:
• ACS tutors (UH American Chemical Society Chapter volunteers): http://acsuh.com/tutoring/
• LAUNCH tutors: https://ussc.uh.edu/lss/tutoring.aspx
• NSM-SEP tutoring: https://uh.edu/nsm/scholar-enrichment/tutoring/
• Knack online tutoring: https://app.joinknack.com/school/university-of-houston

Facilitated group problem-solving sessions
• CHEM GYM: free weekly, tutor-led sessions
• Success Guides: https://uh.edu/ussc/launch/services/handouts/
• Success Workshops: https://uh.edu/ussc/launch/workshops/
• Success Coaching: https://uh.edu/ussc/launch/coaching/

SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES