

Contact Information

Name: Brendan Mar

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I am available to answer questions and assist you with working through problems and strategizing for maximizing your success in the course. If my scheduled office hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can arrange for an alternate time. Chemistry is an unavoidably challenging subject, but my aim as an instructor is to make sure that you have the tools you need to rise to the challenge.

Meeting Times

Course Record Number: 21589 (morning lab) **OR** 25412 (afternoon lab)

Lecture: Tue/Thu 10:30 to 11:45 pm

Lab: Tue/Thu 7:30 to 10:20 am **OR** 2:30 to 5:20 pm

Office Hours: Tue/Thu 12:00 to 12:50 pm

Workshop: Wed 10:30 am to 12:20 pm

Overview

Course Description: Chemistry 12A is the first of a three-quarter organic chemistry sequence for life and physical science majors. The course begins with a brief review of and elaboration upon topics from general chemistry that are relevant to understanding organic systems. A subsequent in-depth treatment of the structure and classification of organic compounds lays the groundwork for the latter half of the course, in which students will make their first forays into understanding reactivity of organic compounds. The laboratory portion of the course introduces common methods used for preparation, purification and identification of organic compounds.

Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Chemistry 1C, or the equivalent.

Course Schedule: You can follow the links here for a [tentative lecture schedule](#) and the [lab calendar](#).

Course Materials

Required

Lecture Text: Klein, *Organic Chemistry, 3rd Ed.*, ISBN #9781119412892.

Automatic opt-in access comes with class sign up. Students will receive an email granting them access to their eBook. It may go to your spam folder so you should check there if you don't see it at first. Electronic access includes the e-text, as well as the student solutions manual and other publisher provided resources. Access is free for the first two weeks of the quarter, after which payment is required if you wish to continue to use the e-text.

You may also purchase a hard copy of this text, or of the 2nd edition, but be aware that the ordering of a few topics has shifted. The 1st edition is not recommended, as it lacks the literature based challenge problems that are one of the book's primary strengths.

Scientific or Graphing Calculator: While this course is not as numerically intensive as the general chemistry series, there will nonetheless be occasional calculations to do here and there.

Lab Notebook: This can be obtained from the bookstore or another source. Duplicate pages are not required, but lab work should be completed in a bound notebook, not on free sheets in a binder.

Household Materials: Although we are not meeting in person for lab this quarter, there are some simple experiments illustrating organic chemistry concepts that you will be able to perform at home. These will mostly involve common household items like sugar, salt, etc. One item you may not have on hand is rubbing alcohol (isopropanol), so if you do not have this at home, you should obtain a regular size (~1L) bottle. It may be difficult to find the usual 70% isopropanol, in which case 91% or 99% will also be fine.

Recommended

Lab Text: Gilbert and Martin, *Experimental Organic Chemistry: A Miniscale and Microscale Approach*, 6th Ed., ISBN #9781305080461.

The lab text is listed as recommended rather than required because we are currently operating in remote delivery and will not be performing experiments live in the lab this quarter. Be aware that the lab text still contains useful information to help you understand the techniques we will be covering, and while I will give alternative online resources discussing these techniques, they may not be as complete as the treatments given in the lab text. Keep in mind also that you may be required to purchase the lab text later in the series, for instance if face-to-face labs return in the summer, so you may wish to simply purchase the text now to have it for the whole sequence.

You may also use an earlier edition of the lab text. Just be aware that page numbers will not line up with those listed in the syllabus, and while the presentations of theory and techniques are equivalent, there may be some variations in procedures. It is up to you to ensure that your written procedures align with the current edition.

Lecture Text Solutions Manual: Klein, *Student Study Guide and Solutions Manual, 3e for Organic Chemistry, 3e*, ISBN #9781119378693.

If you are using an earlier edition of the textbook, you should make sure you obtain a solutions manual that matches it.

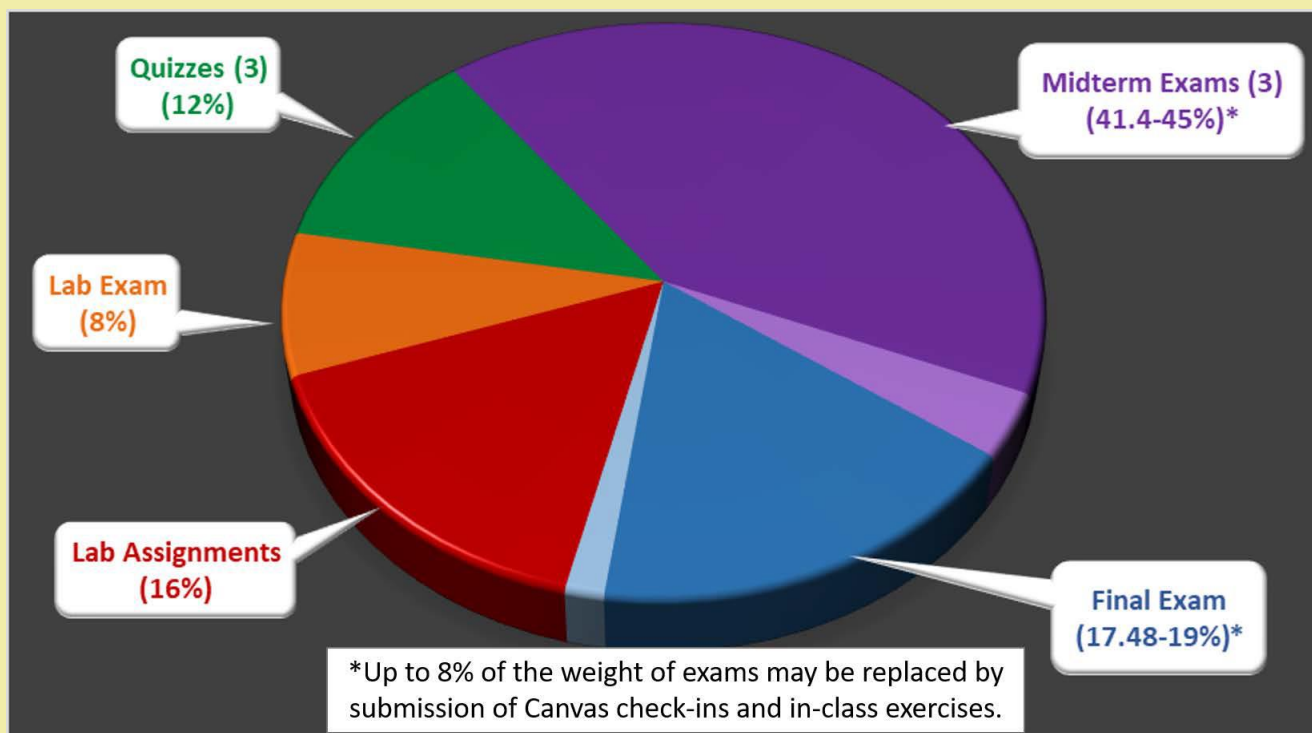
Organic Molecular Modeling Kit: Any standard organic chemistry model kit will suffice.

In addition to a physical model set there are many free, open-source software packages for building and visualizing organic molecules. One fairly user-friendly program is Avogadro, which can be downloaded for Mac/Windows/Linux at avogadro.cc.

Grading Breakdown

General

The general scoring breakdown for the course is shown below, with lecture assessments accounting for 76% of the course grade, and lab related work making up the remaining 24%.



The rough grading scale for the course is shown here:

- >90% = A+/A/A-
- 80-90% = B+/B/B-
- 70-80% = C+/C
- 60-70% = D+/D/D-
- <60% = F

Exams are not curved, however the grading brackets may shift downward (i.e. in your favor) in the final grade calculation to allow for adjustment in case the difficulty of some assessments is overtuned in any particular term. The brackets will not, however shift upward (so for instance it is possible that the cutoff for an A- would ultimately shift to 89%, but it will not shift to 91%).

Lecture

Assessments of lecture content will include three quizzes, three midterm exams, and one final exam. All assessments will be administered synchronously via Zoom. While you are not required to be on a webcam during regular Zoom class meetings, you and your immediate testing area will need to be visible during assessments, via either a webcam or phone camera. If you do not have access to any means of sending video during exams, please let me know directly as soon as possible so that we can explore accessing potential available institutional resources.

The quizzes (40 points each; tentatively scheduled in weeks 2, 5 and 7) will serve as checkpoints to ensure that you are keeping up with course content, and not trying to absorb all the material in the days leading up to the exams. It is possible that the dates of these quizzes might shift slightly depending on how course pacing plays out in practice. If the date of a quiz is changed, you will be notified in advance.

The three midterm exams (150 points each) will be held during the laboratory periods on **Thursday, 10/7**, **Thursday 10/28** and **Thursday, 11/18**. The first exam will broadly cover topics related to general chemistry review, representations of organic molecules, and organic acids and bases. The second will cover alkane structure and nomenclature, stereochemistry and fundamentals of organic reactivity. The third will focus on substitution and elimination reactions, as well as free radical chemistry.

The final exam (190 points) will be held during the time designated by the college on **Thursday, 12/9 from 9:15 to 11:15 am**. While this exam will emphasize material introduced after the third midterm, it is nonetheless unavoidably cumulative in the sense that the study of organic chemistry is essentially the development of a toolbox for understanding organic reactions and devising synthetic pathways. As such, at any point in the series, you will need to be able to draw on the full set of tools that you have accumulated up to that point.

Lab

Since we will not be performing in-person lab experiments due to the campus closure, lab periods will be focused on introducing spectroscopic techniques, reinforcing our understanding of important reactions, and discussing certain organic laboratory techniques not covered in 12A. Lab discussions will be divided up into four groupings, each of which will span several lab sessions. Each grouping will account for a total of 40 points (for a total of 160 points), with 12 coming from the submitted pre-lab exercises and in-lab notes from your lab notebook, 20 from the typed report, and 8 from participation and good conduct in the synchronous portion of the lab meeting.

The lab exam (80 points) will account for the remainder of your lab score, and will be held during the lab period on **Thursday, 12/2**. This exam will focus on your understanding of the underlying laboratory and spectroscopic techniques that we have used during the quarter, rather than on the procedural specifics of the exact experiments we performed. In preparing for this exam, you should make sure you understand why we take the steps we do in a given technique, and what the consequences would be if we were to deviate in some way from the correct procedure. This exam will also contain problems related to interpretation of spectra.

Classroom Policies

Attendance

Lecture: This course will adopt a flipped classroom model, where the lecture content is delivered to you via topical videos on Canvas, which you will watch prior to the synchronous online lecture period. This will free up time in the synchronous meeting for working through problems, which is the most important component of building skill in organic chemistry, but which students are often left largely to their own devices to navigate. Brief Canvas check-in assignments worth optional points that can be substituted for a portion of exams grades will be due prior to lecture to check that you are keeping up with the material.

Attendance in lecture is critical, as this is where we will engage with the broad range of topics covered in the course, and where I will make clear the level of mastery that I will be expecting to see from you when exam time rolls around. While missing lecture will not directly impact your grade if an assessment is not being given, frequent absences will substantially increase the likelihood that you will not perform well on exams. There will also be exercises during lecture that can be submitted for optional points to be substituted for a portion of exam grades, giving you a buffer if you are concerned about your exam performance.

Lab: Obviously the present circumstances have a significant impact on the way in which the laboratory portion of the course will run, with the cancellation of in person classes meaning that you will not actually be performing experiments in a physical laboratory. We will nonetheless be using the scheduled laboratory period to introduce a variety of topics related to synthetic and analytical laboratory techniques, and attendance and participation on Zoom during the laboratory period is required. Screenshot attendance will be taken 10 minutes after the start of the scheduled period, and also before the synchronous session is dismissed. Attending lab also means being present and participating in the lab discussion, not simply logging into the Zoom session and walking away. If you are not present and therefore unresponsive during lab without mentioning that you have stepped away, you will be considered absent from that lab meeting. Your first lab absence will not directly impact your course grade, but the second absence will be counted against your participation grade, and three or more lab absences will result in an automatic failing grade in the course in accordance with departmental policy.

Workload

Organic chemistry is a challenging subject, frequently appearing at or near the top of lists of students' most difficult college courses. As such, it is important that you come in with realistic expectations about the amount of time you will need to put in to achieve mastery of the course material. In addition to time spent in lecture and lab, you should be anticipating devoting 6 to 10 additional hours per week to engaging with the course material in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- **Watching Lecture Videos Ahead of Lecture:** Since the lecture period will be primarily devoted to problem solving and practice with the material, working your way through the scheduled videos beforehand is a necessity to be prepared for class. It is not necessary that you have a perfect grasp of everything before you arrive to lecture, but you do need to have spent enough time with the material that you are in a position to learn through practice, and to ask questions about topics that you feel need further clarification.
- **Reading the Textbook:** Much of the material covered in organic chemistry is complex, and the details are important. It is difficult to absorb these details in the context of a lecture and discussion alone. You should therefore make sure to read the relevant sections of the textbook, in addition to watching the lecture videos, in order to help cement your understanding of the material, work through in-text examples and make sure you catch any details that you may have missed.
- **Working Homework Problems:** Working through examples is absolutely essential to developing the facility with organic reactions that is necessary to succeed in the course. As you read through the chapters in the textbook, you should work through all of the in-text problems, as these generally represent a check on basic comprehension of the material presented. Afterward, you can move on to the list of [suggested end-of-chapter problems](#). Note that this list represents the minimum set of problems that you should expect to complete in order to achieve the necessary competency level, and to master the material you should plan on working many additional problems on topics that you find especially challenging. Homework sets should be completed as we are progressing through the content, so that when exam week arrives you are prepared to work through the additional exam preparation materials provided.
- **Completing Lab Assignments:** Each lab day will involve a follow-up assignment to be submitted before noon on the day of the next lab meeting. This assignment may be as simple as submission of notes taken during the synchronous lab session, or in some cases may involve additional practice to be done asynchronously. Each grouping will also involve preparation of a typed summary report that will generally be due one week after the final day of the grouping. Lab reports submitted after the due date will receive a grade deduction of 10% for each class day that they are late.

Behavior

Lecture Participation: The aim of the lecture period is to aid students as much as possible in grasping the course material. To that end, your participation is critical to ensuring that we make optimal use of the limited time we have together. Answering questions that I ask, and asking questions when you are confused are the best ways to let me know what you do and do not understand yet. If you simply try to passively absorb lecture content without active engagement, you will inevitably find when you try to approach a complex problem on your own, that you are not sufficiently practiced in the kind of reasoning required to find your own path to the end.

Respect for your Peers: The lecture is not only about your learning experience, but also about that of your fellow students. This means that it is important that you be respectful of their time by not engaging in behavior that is disruptive. While you may use electronic devices in class for the purposes of aiding in your own learning process, you may not use them in a way that serves to distract your classmates or otherwise detract from their learning experience. In addition, the classroom is a place where students with diverse backgrounds and identities come together and work toward common learning goals. As we progress in our collective quest to surmount the never-ending challenges that chemistry sends our way, we are all entitled to a collegial and supportive learning environment. Any behavior or language that is hostile or demeaning to your fellow classmates is therefore not acceptable classroom behavior (or good general practice as a human).

Lab Check-In and Check-Out

You are required to check into a lab drawer at the beginning of the quarter, and check out of it at the end. You are responsible for verifying that all your glassware is present and unbroken at the start of the lab. If you drop the course, you must still arrange a time with your instructor to check out your lab drawer. The stockroom technician will not check out lockers for any students, and not checking out by the end of the quarter will result in a hold being placed on your registration.

Safety in the Lab

From the American Chemical Society Safety In Academic Laboratories Guidelines, 7th Ed., the following mandatory minimum safety requirements must be followed by all students and be rigorously enforced by all chemistry faculty:

1. **Chemistry Department-approved safety goggles purchased from the De Anza College bookstore (NOT safety glasses) must be worn at all times once laboratory work begins, including when obtaining equipment from the stockroom or removing equipment from student drawers, and may not be removed until all laboratory work has ended and all glassware has been returned to student drawers.**
2. **Shoes that completely enclose the foot are to be worn at all times;** NO sandals, open-toed, or open-topped shoes, or slippers, even with socks on, are to be worn in the lab.
3. Shorts, cut-offs, skirts or pants exposing skin above the ankle, and sleeveless tops may not be worn in the lab: **ankle-length clothing must be worn at all times.**

4. Hair reaching the top of the shoulders must be tied back securely.
5. Loose clothing must be constrained.
6. Wearing "...jewelry such as rings, bracelets, and wristwatches in the laboratory..." should be discouraged to prevent "...chemical seepage in between the jewelry and skin...".
7. Eating, drinking, or applying cosmetics in the laboratory is forbidden at ALL times, including during lab lecture.
8. Use of electronic devices requiring headphones in the laboratory is prohibited at ALL times, including during lab lecture.
9. Students are advised to inform their instructor about any pre-existing medical conditions, such as pregnancy, epilepsy, or diabetes, that they have that might affect their performance.
10. Students are required to know the locations of the eyewash stations, emergency shower, and all exits.
11. Students may not be in the lab without an instructor being present.
12. Students not enrolled in the laboratory class may not be in the lab at any time after the first lab period of each quarter.
13. Except for soapy or clear rinse water from washing glassware, **NO CHEMICALS MAY BE Poured INTO THE SINKS; all remaining chemicals from an experiment must be poured into the waste bottle provided.**
14. Students are required to follow the De Anza College Code of Conduct at all times while in lab: "horseplay", yelling, offensive language, or any behavior that could startle or frighten another student is not allowed during lab.
15. Strongly recommended: Wear nitrile gloves while performing lab work; wear a chemically resistant lab coat or lab apron; wear shoes made of leather or polymeric leather substitute. Reckless behavior will not be tolerated. If your actions endanger the health and safety of yourself or someone else you will be asked to leave and you will receive a zero for the day.

Important Dates

October 2: Last day to add

October 3: Last day to drop without a "W" grade appearing on transcript*

October 7: Midterm Exam 1

October 28: Midterm Exam 2

November 11: Veteran's Day Holiday

November 12: Last day to drop classes with a "W"*

November 18: Midterm Exam 3

November 25: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2: Lab Exam

December 9: Final Exam (9:15-11:15 am)

* Note that dropping the course in advance of either the drop or withdraw deadline is your responsibility, and you will not simply be dropped because you stopped attending class at some point along the way.

Academic Accommodations

If you have the need for specific accommodations, such as extended-time or reduced-distraction testing, or the use of assistive technology, I am glad to work with you to arrive at an appropriate accommodation arrangement. All such requests must go through Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), located in the Advanced Technology Center (AT209). If you need accommodations but are not yet registered through DSPS, please make sure to contact them as soon as possible, as I am not able to provide accommodations without a written notice from that office. The DSPS website is found at www.deanza.edu/dsps.

Academic Integrity

Cheating or plagiarizing in any form will not be tolerated. The first offense of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the exam or assignment and the offending student will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (see the academic honor code at www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html).

Note that for the in-class group exercises, you will be working together with your classmates, and it is fine for you to submit work done by the group as a whole, provided you were present and contributed to the group's work. For lab reports, you will generally be sharing data with your fellow classmates, and it is fine to work collaboratively and help

one another with understanding how to analyze that data. However, the figures and discussion in the report that you submit must be your own work, and lab reports that have clearly been copied from another student will be assigned a zero score.

Quizzes and exams are meant to assess your own knowledge of the course content, and any consultation with classmates or online or other sources while completing these evaluations will result in a zero score for the relevant assignment and a report being filed with the office of academic affairs.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- *Predict the product of a chemical reaction.
- *Apply principles of thermodynamics, kinetics, and equilibrium to organic reaction systems.
- *Generate logical stepwise reaction mechanisms.
- *Construct molecular structure from spectroscopic data.