NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Department of Chemistry
Summer 2019
Chem SU 225 Organic I Chemistry
Silver Building room 401
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 9:00-11:05am

Instructor: Petra Tosovska
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Office Hours: TBA
Recitation: Mondays and Wednesdays between 11:15 am-12:30 pm

A. Course Description and Interactions

Greetings! This course is intended to introduce you to the major concepts in organic chemistry and prepare you for the upper level chemistry classes you will face in the coming semesters, your research, and the organic requirements for medical schools.

Your primary contact is your recitation instructor. All inquiries regarding grading, policies, absences, and any other issues should begin there. The recitation instructor will answer your e-mail within a 48 hour period. I have instructed all recitation leaders NOT to answer e-mails during the weekend and late at night. All instructors work hard and deserve their time off. Make sure you send your questions/requests in a timely fashion. Only after you contacted your recitation instructor and his/her answer is not satisfactory to you should Dr. Tosovska be approached. Dr. Tosovska will only entertain requests that include e-mail verification that the recitation instructor has been contacted and ruled on the matter. Students wishing to approach Dr. Tosovska must make an appointment by email or come to office hours and must provide information regarding prior discussions with the recitation instructor and why his/her ruling is unsatisfactory.

B. Textbook

- The following textbook is available at the Bookstore:

This textbook will give you a good introduction into the basic concepts we cover in the course. It also offers you a variety of educational questions that should help you in learning the course material. Midterms and the Final Exam are based mainly on the material and concepts we cover IN CLASS. The assigned chapters in the book are required reading.

- The following Molecular Model Kit is required:

*Maruzen, HGS Stereochemistry Molecular Model 4010 Student Set*

Molecular modeling kits are VERY important. Start making models of as many compounds as possible so that you can visualize compounds in 3D and in your head. You will not survive the stereochemistry part of the class without a model set. Model sets are allowed during exams.

**C. Requirements and Grading**

This class is very demanding. We will cover a lot of material VERY fast. The class is designed such that you have to review the class notes and read the book chapters before class for AT LEAST ten additional hours every week (not including working on problems). Therefore, at least a twenty-hour weekly commitment to the lecture part of this class is expected (class meeting, preparations, recitations, etc.). It is important that you start to review the material early on!

**Homework:** To be successful in this course, you need to work through every problem set in the back of each chapter. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to grade all of these. However, these questions are a vital part for passing the exams. They serve as PERFECT study guide for all exams. I strongly urge you to start working on these questions in week one. Starting three days before the first exam will be too late!

**Exams:** There will be two "midterm" exams plus a final exam. Each midterm exam is worth 700 points. The final is worth 1200 points. Midterms and finals are worth a grand total of 2600 points. If you cannot take a midterm, you must provide an official notification from the Dean of undergraduate studies to be allowed to take the make-up exam. There will be no make-up exam for the final or a second "midterm" make up exam date. If you cannot attend the final or you are missing a second midterm, you will get an incomplete in the class and will be required to take the organic chemistry I final (or midterm) in the fall semester.

**Class participation:** Attendance in lectures and recitation sections is mandatory! Class/recitation participation is an important part of the class. That can be through questions in class or the recitation sessions, answers to questions I pose during class, or other class related activities. Recitation attendance will be taken AT THE BEGINNING of each recitation. Late-comers will not be accounted for. If you miss more than five (5) recitations, 300 points will be automatically deducted from your overall point summary.

**Quizzes:** The quizzes are part of the lecture, will take 10-15 minutes, and can be scheduled at any time during the lecture, i.e. at the beginning or the end. There will be 12 quizzes and each will be worth 50 points. The eight highest quizzes will be counted towards your grade for a grand total of 400 points. There will be NO make-up quizzes for any reasons.

**Lab Grade:** The laboratory portion accounts for 25% of the overall grade.

**Final grade:** Tentative grading scale/scheme are shown below. You must pass the laboratory portion of the class with 55% or higher. If you score below 55% in the laboratory part of the class, you will automatically receive an F in the class (independent of your performance in
midterms and finals). I am not using a grading curve in this class. You do NOT have to work
against each other. In contrast, this class is so demanding that study groups etc. are strongly
encouraged.

**Preliminary Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two written midterms</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab grade</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tentative Grading Scheme:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A and A-</td>
<td>87.5-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>75-87.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C-</td>
<td>57.5-74.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D. General**

All students who may need special accommodations for any sort of disability, or know they will
have to attend a make-up exam because of a religious holiday, please see me during my office
hours or contact me after class. Following NYU's new policy, you must contact the MOSES
center, fill out the online form, and make sure that I receive the online form/verification at least
three days BEFORE a scheduled exam. Any reasons for missing an exam/requests for special
accommodations after an exam will not be entertained.

No cell phones are allowed in class. If you have time to text during class, I am either too slow
and will increase the pace of the class or you are not interested.

**E. Academic Honesty**

It is expected that all students are aware of their responsibilities not to cheat. No ‘teamwork’
during exams! *Cheating off of another person’s test is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else’s
work is a direct violation of NYU’s policies and will be dealt with accordingly. Falsifying an exam (for example
before turning it in for a regrade) is cheating and will be reported. Please note that we will copy a couple of exams
each time in order to minimize the temptation to falsify them.*

Use of any previous semester course materials is allowed for this course. However, I remind you
that while they may serve as examples, they are not guidelines for any tests.

All information required for exams will be supplied. No notes, books, etc. are allowed during the
exams. All paper needed during the exams will be supplied. The use of programmable
calculators AND cell phones during exams is not allowed. If we find a cell phone or calculator,
i.e. they are NOT in a closed environment such as your CLOSED and LOCKED bag but open
in an open bag, on your chair, on the bench, etc., it is viewed as a direct violation and will be
viewed as cheating. It results in the confiscation of your exam, which will be graded
automatically as zero points and you will be asked to leave the room. **Pencils are NOT allowed
for the exams. You are required to come equipped with a non-erasable pen.**

We all make mistakes. It will happen that we make mistakes during grading of an exam. I
apologize in advance but we grade hundreds of exams. For re-grading, you have to hand in your
exam within one week after the distribution. You have to include a detailed written statement why a question should be re-graded, i.e. a statement such as ‘re-grade question 2’ is not acceptable. You must sign and use the form online to submit a re-grade. Tell us why you think your answer deserved more points. Do NOT make any marks on the exam (any marks directly invalidate any exams for re-grading). Note that you hand in your complete exam. We will re-grade the whole exam. While your grade may go up, it can also go down.

All students who violate the honor code will be reported to the Dean’s office, no exceptions.

F. Basic Advise to Succeed in Organic Chemistry

- Attend each lecture!
- Stay on top of the material. Start working on day 1 not just before the exam.
- Learn the concepts and fundamental of organic chemistry. You cannot memorize millions of compounds and thousands of reactions.
- Ask questions! Don’t be shy. If you do not understand something, other students might have the same problems. In any case, speak up.
- Contact Dr. Tosovska if you have problems.