
6:35-7:45 pm Mondays and Wednesdays via Zoom

Maitland Jones, Jr., 344 WAV, mj55@nyu.edu

Keith Woerpel, 825 Silver

Recitations

You must register for an online Recitation section.

Recitation Leaders:

Nick Angelo, nga207@nyu.edu

Tom Kwok, tjk2005@nyu.edu

John Stasiak, js6915@nyu.edu

Hong Zhao, hz19@nyu.edu

Laboratory:

You must register for a lab section. The lab may be in-person or online. The exact details will be announced as soon as we have them. Prof. Henssler is the lab instructor. John Henssler, 347 WAV, henssler@nyu.edu

Textbook: The texts are “Organic Chemistry, Fifth Edition,” Maitland Jones, Jr., and Steven A. Fleming, W.W. Norton, New York, and the Study Guide, also published by Norton, by Jones, H.L. Gingrich and Fleming. The Study Guide has elaborate answers to all the problems in the book, and is utterly essential. The text and lectures/problem sessions are separate parts of the course. There will be material covered at length in the book that we do not touch on in lecture, and vice versa. The Classes site will have general chapter and page listings, but these are meant to be neither inclusive nor exclusive.

Molecular Model Kit: It is important that you prepare models for as many compounds as possible so you can begin to “see” the molecules when you shut your eyes. Duluth Lab Organic Set or Darling Molecular Visions Molecular Model work well and are available from Amazon.

Chemdraw: Chemdraw is the standard structure drawing program used in industry and academia. NYU has a site license for this program, which you should download: http://guides.nyu.edu/c.php?g=276594&p=1844910.

You can use the Chem3D program on a PC (in Chemdraw) to analyze different
conformations of compounds.

Overview: This course is serious. You cannot coast through it, and you cannot cram at the last minute. We know that essentially every course says these things, but they are absolutely true here. Every single person in this course is smart enough to do well, but you have to do things right.

Here are some simple (?) Things To Do. In the fall, many students did not do these things, so we repeat them here. “Attendance” at the Mon/Wed problem sessions was about 40% at the end, and log in to the “office hours” question sessions rarely was greater than 10. The videos were viewed rarely, if at all, by many of you.

1. Watch the posted video lectures and come to the remote classes. Missing the classes and recitations is seriously detrimental to getting a good grade in this course. Consider the following piece of data, which has been replicated many times. The exam average of those students in the classroom after an exam is approximately 20 points higher than the average for those absent. Statistically, every single absence costs you about 2.5 points on your final average. We don't deduct for absences, nature does it automatically.

2. Take good, extensive notes. Involvement is critical in this course. There is a connection between the pencil and the brain. Maintain it!

3. Go to your Recitation section! This year's group of Recitation leaders is outstanding (honest, it really is).

4. Work the problems.

General Course Description: Our goal is not to transmit facts to you. Facts will inevitably be forgotten and have an uncomfortable way of changing with time. Instead we will focus on learning how to “think organic chemistry,” on how to become a good problem solver.

The first semester of this course covers structure, bonding, spectroscopy, and the fundamental building block reactions of organic chemistry: substitution, elimination, and additions. We will cover approximately 9 chapters, 13-20 and 23. Videos for chapter 24 will be posted but we will not cover that material this year. There is a detailed schedule posted, but keep in mind that the details are certain to change as we go along.

text and lectures are separate parts of the course. There will be material covered at length in the book that we do not touch on in lecture, and vice versa. The Classes site has general chapter and page listings, but these are meant to be neither inclusive nor exclusive. You are expected to forage widely in your readings, using the index as well as other texts. We can recommend Marc Loudon’s fine book, “Organic Chemistry, Fourth Edition,” Oxford as a book that can be profitably consulted for another view on things.

**Classes Site:** Everything is under “Resources.” Here you will find suggested problems for each chapter, old and current exams and answers, readings, assorted handouts and announcements, and, sometimes, Opportunities for additional exam points. Check it often.

**Problem Sets:** The Classes site has suggested book problems for every chapter. There will also be "extra" problems posted as we go along. Unfortunately, we do not have the manpower to grade these, so they are not required. However, you will find that doing problems is vital in preparing for exams. You are urged in the strongest terms to do those problems and to do them without the aid of the Study Guide or posted answers. The effectiveness of working problems drops precipitously if you do not do them first without the answers. There will probably be too many problems for you to do them all, especially as the semester proceeds and demands on your time increase. One obvious solution is to do only some of the problems. That technique seems easy, but many people are intimidated by this simple idea and just abandon the problems until panic time. There is nothing wrong with doing every other problem! The problem sets, especially the later ones, do not contain “drill” problems. Such exercises are common in the book, however. It is very important that you be in control of the basic parts of the course before you attempt the “think” problems on the problem sets of in the exams.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be held each week in the Recitation Section starting with Week 2. Each quiz will last 10-15 min. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped (not more!). No make-up quizzes will be given.

**Exams and Grades, Grading Scheme, Psychopathology, and Competition:**

At almost every school, the course in organic chemistry has the reputation of being very hard and, often, destructively competitive. Moreover, it is widely held that success in “orgo” is essential to gaining entrance to The Medical School of Your Choice. We can do nothing about the last notion, as it is utterly external to our efforts here. **Most Important:** In this course, you are not in competition with your neighbor. What he or she gets has NO - repeat: NO - bearing on your grade. There is NO curve, which simply means two things: 1. There is no pre-set number or percentage of A’s, B’s and so on. There can be a year in which everyone gets an A. 2. Exams will not be scaled to some pre-set number. We
aim for a median of about 65 on all exams. Historically, 65 has been roughly the B – B minus divide.

Your final grade is made up of 65% of the average of your best two in-term exams, 25% final exam, and 10% quiz grad average. Your overall course grade is made up of 75% lecture grade and 25% lab grade.

Please note that all exams are cumulative. Recent material may be emphasized, but you are responsible for all the material covered so far. The Final Exam will be cumulative.

Please note that: You must pass both the lecture and laboratory components of the course. An F or D in the lab will not be offset by a higher score in the course, and vice versa.

Exam Dates (set by NYU, not us, and far from optimal)

Friday 2/26/2021 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Friday 3/26/2021 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Friday 4/23/2021 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Office Hours: We will hold regular zoom office hours and these will be announced.

Surprisingly, email is especially effective even in as visual a subject as organic chemistry. Often framing the question answers it for you. You can reach MJ with such questions at mj55@nyu.edu.