

Organic Chemistry I

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. E. Schoffers, 3148 Wood Hall, schoffer@wmich.edu (only use first 8 letters of last name, "schoffer" (no "s"))

WEBSITE <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~schoffer/>, check this site regularly for updates and course schedule information.

OFFICE HOURS: TWR 2-3 PM, or by appointment

TEXTBOOK: *Organic Chemistry*, 5th Ed., by W.H. Brown; C.S. Foote; B.L. Iverson; E.V. Anslyn (**Required**); *Student Study Guide and Solutions Manual for Brown, Foote, Iverson & Anslyn*, by J. W. Simek (**Required**); *Pushing Electrons – A Guide for Students of Organic Chemistry*, 3rd Ed., by Weeks (**Optional**); OWL is recommended but won't be graded

CLICKERS: The "ResponseCard *RF* from TurningPoint is **required**. A maximum of 50 pts out of at least 65 clicker questions will account for 10% of the grade; student scores will regularly posted online.

MOLECULAR MODELS: (Required): It is necessary to build molecular models in order to understand key concepts such as stereochemistry. Effective, inexpensive models are available in the bookstore or online. Students will be allowed to use molecular models during exams.

PREREQUISITE: A PASSING GRADE OF "C" OR BETTER is required for CHEM 1100, 1110, 1120 and 1130. It is strongly recommended that students take CHEM 3760 concurrently. **Transfer students whose chemistry credits are not yet posted on their WMU transcript need to contact me and provide a transcript copy. Prerequisites for this course will be enforced.**

STUDENT NEEDS: A student with a diagnosed disability requiring assistance must contact the instructor and the *Disabled Student Resources And Services* office for special services. **Students with other concerns must contact the instructor ASAP.**

COURSE GOAL: Along with the second semester course CHEM 3770, this course is intended for students preparing for careers in chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, chemical engineering, medicine, pharmacy, and other professions. The goal is to equip students with a thorough understanding of the concepts and the skills of organic chemistry. Topics include, among others, molecular structure and bonding, fundamental molecular orbital theory; hydrocarbons such as alkanes, alkenes and alkynes and other functional groups; stereochemistry (3-dimensional aspects), stereoisomerism, stereoselectivity of reactions, nomenclature; fundamental reaction mechanisms, strategies of organic synthesis, as well as spectroscopic methods like infrared (IR), nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometry (MS). CHEM 3750 assumes a strong background in general chemistry

EXAMS: Are closed book, no memory aid allowed. Four one-hour exams will be given during class time as listed in the class schedule. Your grade will be based on the best three out of four exams. The lowest hour exam score or the exam you might have missed will be dropped automatically. **NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. The FINAL EXAM will be given on Thursday, December 17, 2009, 2:45-4:45 PM.** Additional points will be collected through **CLICKER POINTS** which will account for 10% of the grade; see above.

HOMEWORK: Appropriate reading assignments are assigned in the schedule along with textbook problems. Answers are given in the *Solutions Manual*, but **this manual should be consulted only as a last resort.** Answers will not be collected or graded, but it is necessary to work many problems to learn organic chemistry. One or more questions on each exam will be based on assigned problems.

HANDOUTS: Relevant handouts will be provided in lectures. Leftover handouts are available from the white desk outside my office.

CLASS ETIQUETTE: Turn off all electronic devices, including laptops. Please arrive on time because class will start promptly at 1 PM. You should be in your seats and ready to take notes. Late comers and those leaving early unnecessarily disrupt the class. Students should attend all lectures during which they collect clicker points. Students with good attendance records generally achieve higher course scores. Missed lecture material is the student's responsibility. **It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the syllabus.** The syllabus may be subject to change. Visit online for important updates and changes.

GRADING: The course grade will be determined from scores on three hour-exams (100 pts each), the final exam (200 pts) and through clicker questions (50 pts, **1 point for each correct clicker answer**, out of a total of 65 questions). Course grades on a simple A-E scale are based on the class curve. *The grade ranges vary from year to year.* The tentative course grading scale is as follows: A (88-100), B (75-87), C (60-74), D (50-60), E (< 50). In-between grades (BA, CB, DC) will also be given. **REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: All exams are cumulative and closed book. The use of any memory aids will be considered **cheating**. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be treated severely, in accordance with University policy.

“You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.”

HOW TO PASS ORGO:

- **attend class** (but stay home if you are sick, especially with contagious illnesses like the flu, check online for updates)
- regularly check your **which e-mail account** for updates
- read the preface for **study tips**
- read "with a pencil" **before** lecture
- take copious **notes during the lecture**
- **review** notes after class and **work problems**
- come during **office hours** or make appointments
- the more **HW problems** you work the better you'll learn
- concentrate on **concepts** to aid memory
- use **molecular models** to understand bonds and 3D aspects
- don't get behind
- form **study groups**
- check **instructor's homepage** for notes, updates and interesting links (visit **homepage**, NOT webCT)

