

Chem 8-A, First quarter of Organic Chemistry Syllabus Summer session 1

Instructor: Dr. Rafael Silverman y de la Vega email: risilvem@ucsc.edu

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Office hours for Dr. Silverman y de la Vega: MW 2:15-3:15 pm, location TBD

Office hours for Sydney Stedman: TBD

Overview:

Organic chemistry is the foundation for many important but perhaps seemingly unrelated fields, including biochemistry, molecular biology, cooking and the Ochem section of the MCAT. This class will continue you on your path of understanding the molecular basis of things like genes, and why sugar browns when heated. We will cover the basics of structure, bonding and reactivity of organic molecules.

Pep talk:

Organic chemistry has a reputation for being difficult, and the reality is that O-chem takes a lot of time to master. However, anyone with the courage to take O-chem in a short summer session is willing to take on a real intellectual challenge. So I and the TA are here to help you to learn, in any way we can. Please ask questions and get help, a summer class goes by fast. Again, we are here to help you with your academic goals.

Materials:

Canvas, all course info will be posted in the Canvas page, so will the online homework SmartWork5 and other class material and grades. Link to this is coming soon, as soon as UCSC gets around to adding me as an instructor to it. Emails to the university regarding this have been sent repeatedly. I will notify the class as soon as it is sorted out.

The assigned book is the creatively named “**Organic Chemistry Principles and Mechanisms**” by **Joel Karty** ISBN: 9780393630756. You can get the Ebook and associated online homework package, “**smartwork5**” through the UCSC bookstore. It’s a package deal for about \$100 book+smartwork inclusive. Access to these lasts 2 years. If you wish to opt out of the online homework please reach out to me immediately to discuss options.

A model kit is not technically required but HIGHLY recommended. There are a lot of concepts that are made much clearer when moving a model around yourself. HGS Molecular Structure Model Kits (HGS 1003alpha or 1005 alpha) are quite good. Other cheaper models can work too, but might not have the full functionality of a good kit.

Emails/teacher-student communication: Make sure to check canvas updates for material and content schedule changes. Email me whenever you have a question about the material/course and I will try to answer it promptly if it is a quick question. I may ask that we discuss the answer in my office hours. If you cannot make my regularly scheduled ones I can try to accommodate a different time, or we can discuss after the lecture. I am happy to take all kinds of questions about academia, working in industry, study strategy for this class, other classes etc.

Tutoring: Students can sign-up for tutoring on Monday, June 24th at 12pm on TutorHub. Sessions begin Wednesday, June 26th. The tutor for 8A is Nivriti Bopparaju.

Strategy to succeed:

Summer classes are very fast moving, so I highly recommend reading the chapter before the lecture, as well as attempting as much of the homework as possible before the lecture. Then, use the class time to clarify and hone your skills at the problems. If this strategy isn't working I am happy to discuss other ones with you. There are many ways to study and some will work better for you than others. Ask questions on the stuff that is confusing or hard. Also ask questions on things that interest you.

We (myself and the TA) are committed to helping you master the material so if you encounter difficulties, please reach out.

Grading:

Midterms 1& 2, 20% each, 40% total

Cumulative final: 40%

Attendance quizzes 1 through 5, 2% each, 10% total

Smartwork (online homework): 10% total

Typical grade breakdown would be:

A 90%+

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Most likely there will be no curve, and if everyone works hard and crushes the final I am happy to hand out lots of A's.

Grading details:

Midterms:

There will be no makeups. If something comes up and you do miss an exam, email me immediately and we may be able to make the next exam be worth double or we can come up with some other solution.

Final exam:

The final test will be cumulative and anything mentioned in any course material may be tested.

Homework (aka SmartWork5):

Online homework has it's advantages, namely TA's dont have to grade it and it gives textbook companies a reason to keep charging every student \$100.

That being said, there's nothing more infuriating than a simple miss-click on your final allowed attempt on an e-homework question. So there will be generous numbers of attempts per question, and your 2 lowest HW scores will be dropped. No late homework will be accepted.

Attendance Quizzes:

These will be presented at the beginning of a some lectures, and will be extremely easy. Show up less than 15 minutes late on a quiz day and you get to take it. Yes 8:00 is early, thats why I am giving 15 minutes grace time instead of 5.

Academic integrity:

Everyone knows what cheating is, and it does a disservice to students who don't cheat. It also won't help you on the MCAT. Don't do it. No devices in tests. No copying.

DRC (disability resource center):

The UCSC DRC is a great resource. DRC accommodations are available for a variety of neurodiverse people. A common accommodation is extra time on tests. Many other resources are available and please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the DRC directly with any questions, the earlier I can begin accommodations for you the better.

DRC contact info: 831-459-2089 and drc@ucsc.edu

Title 9:

Title 9 (Title IX) prohibits things like sexual harassment and other forms of gender discrimination.

According to the campus Title IX website (<https://titleix.ucsc.edu/>) :

“Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits gender or sex based discrimination in any federally funded education program or activity.

The Title IX Office works to prevent discrimination and harassment. Title IX also receives and responds to reports of misconduct, and will work to remedy and prevent future harm.

Title IX is a neutral office committed to safety, fairness, trauma-informed practices, and due process. If you have questions about Title IX rights and protections, email titleix@ucsc.edu.

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UC Santa Cruz employees, with very limited exceptions, are required to report to the Title IX Office if they learn about sexual violence or sexual harassment that involves a student”

Tentative schedule:

Summer moves fast, 1 chapter per day! Exam days are fixed, the topics are subject to change depending on what we cover.

Lecture number	Date	Day	Chapter
1	24-Jun	M	Intro/1, A
2	26-Jun	W	2
3	28-Jun	F	3
4	1-Jul	M	4
5	3-Jul	W	5
6	5-Jul	F	Exam ch 1-5
7	8-Jul	M	6
8	10-Jul	W	7
9	12-Jul	F	8
10	15-Jul	M	9
11	17-Jul	W	Exam ch 6-9
12	19-Jul	F	10
13	22-Jul	M	11
14	24-Jul	W	Review
15	26-Jul	F	Final exam

That's the end of the syllabus!

