CHEM 337: Organic Chemistry II Lecture

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM in **Van Bokkelen 204**
Fall Semester 2025

Prerequisites: CHEM 334
Textbook: *Organic Chemistry* by Maitland Jones 5th Edition
Class notes: taken by hand (best in at least 2 colors) from writings and drawings on the board!!!

Instructor: Asst. **Prof. Stan**islav Presolski
E-mail: spresolski@towson.edu **Office:** SC 5301**K**
Office Hours: Tue 2:00pm – 3:30pm, Thu 3:00pm – 4:30pm in SC 4335 or with Outlook Calendar invite

Course catalog description and Learning goals:

Structure, reactions and their mechanisms, preparation and properties of alcohols, ethers, aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids and their derivatives, amines, conjugated and aromatic compounds. Three lecture hours. Not open to students who have successfully completed CHEM 332. On successful completion of the course **a student should be able to:** freely use the knowledge from CHEM 334, critically analyze organic reactions, be able to predict the properties and reactivity of molecules based on their structure, as well as predict products of organic reactions and propose viable synthetic pathways to complex organic molecules.

Grading scheme: <-- A/A- ≥ 90%, B+/B/B- ≥ 80%, C+/C ≥ 70%, D+/D ≥ 60%, F< 60%(500pts total)
Problem Sets: 100pts <-- 10 weekly assignments (10pts each) due at the beginning of Thursday lectures
Midterm Exams: 3x100pts OR 2x100+50pts(worst) <-- 3 in-class exams on Sept. 25th, Oct. 23rd, Nov. 20th
Final Exam: 100 OR 150pts(if better) <-- cumulative final exam, Dec. 11th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM in VB 204

Information about organic chemistry courses at TU:

Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in the organic chemistry course(s) that best align with their academic degree requirements and ultimate career goals. The only programs that require CHEM 337 are chemistry, forensic chemistry, and the molecular biology/biochemistry tracks within the MB3 major. The alternative is CHEM 333/333L, which is a one-semester (5 credit) combined organic chemistry lab/lecture course intended for biology majors. This course gives a broader overview of organic chemistry, focusing only on the most important concepts needed for biochemistry. Note that CHEM 333/333L satisfies the graduation requirements for every track within the biology major, and this course also satisfies the prerequisite for taking biochemistry (CHEM 351).

Undergraduate Learning Assistant:

The ULA for this course is Frederick (**Fred**) Phillips fphilli1@students.towson.edu who will hold review sessions in **SC 3333** every Wednesday at 6:00-7:00 PM, providing help and answering questions about the course material, but not the problem sets.

Attendance:

Lecture attendance is not required, but students must turn in their assignment on or before the due date. Towson University sanctioned excuse is necessary at least two weeks prior to missing out mid-terms, but **no make-up exams will be given**. If a student has a documented excuse, they will receive no score for that particular exam and the remaining mid-term points will be scaled to constitute 60% of their final grade.

Students who wish to audit this course must notify the instructor before the end of the fourth week of classes (Sept. 18th, 2025). **No audits will be granted after this date**, and students must either remain in the course to receive a final grade or choose to withdraw before the university deadline (Nov. 3rd, 2025).

Recommended supplementary materials:

- *Study Guide and Solutions Manual for Organic Chemistry* (5th edition) by Maitland Jones, Jr., Henry Gingrich, and Steven Fleming, W. W. Norton & Company, ISBN: 0393936597
- Molecular modeling kit, e.g. Mega Molecules or Linktor

Readings and Homework Problems:

Reading assignments to accompany lectures will be provided from Jones 5th Edition. In addition to more examples of the reactions we will discuss in class and the occasional cool graphics, the textbook allows you to try out various practice problems at the end of each chapter. Since organic chemistry is basically a **foreign language**, the best way to learn is through practice! Jones is particularly good at breaking up the text with detailed solutions of relevant problems and then providing a few more similar questions for you to apply the concept that was just covered. Thus, you should read each chapter with a pen and paper in hand, build your confidence by solving problems as you go along, and then attempt the problems at the back, in order to consolidate your newly acquired knowledge.

Problem Sets:

The purpose of these weekly assignments is to keep you up to date on your readings and provide feedback on whether you have mastered a particular topic or if you would need to revisit it and ask for help before a mid-term. The only way to get zero is to not turn in your problem set, because while full marks will be given for complete answers, some points will be given for attempting each question. Note that problem sets are designed to test your understanding of material you have already learned – they are not where you should be learning the material for the first time. As such, problem sets should be attempted under exam conditions (i.e. no notes, no textbook, no devices or internet, approximately one hour). Since **problem sets are graded assignments, they must be completed individually – working with other students or asking for help from tutors is not permitted.** Directly copying someone else's work (or allowing your work to be copied) will result in a grade of ZERO for that problem set and submission of an academic integrity violation to the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices.

Exams:

There will be three in-class midterm exams and a two-hour final. Because everyone can have a bad day and we should reward mastery of content, your total score for the course will be calculated by EITHER your midterm and final exams each contributing 20% OR your lowest midterm exam being 10%, the other two will be worth 20% each, and the final exam contributing 30% towards your total. This will be done automatically, and whichever formula produces the higher score will be used for the final grade.

Health, Wellness, and Diversity:

While academic work is a very important aspect of your college education, your physical and mental health should always be a top priority. No assignment or exam preparation is worth skipping a meal or going without sleep! If you find that the course is extremely challenging and you are failing to cope with the workload, **talk to your instructor** and your classmates for more effective study strategies, help with planning or additional tutoring. And if you are experiencing undo stress or feel you might benefit from private counseling, please contact the TU Counseling Center: https://www.towson.edu/counseling/

Students with any sort of disability who may need special consideration must see *the instructor during the first week of class* with appropriate paperwork. This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessibility & Disability Services (ADS). Students who suspect that they have a disability, but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact ADS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from ADS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made.

The students, faculty, and staff at Towson University represent a diverse and vibrant community of learners and scholars. As a community, we value the unique contributions of each individual and promote active participation in all aspects of the learning process by each community member. Your instructor supports TU's goal of fostering a diverse and inclusive educational setting and the action plan of the Department of Chemistry & Forensic Science, and strives to create a classroom environment built upon the principles of mutual respect and support. Toward this end, all participants in this course are expected to demonstrate respect for all other members of the class. If you feel these expectations are not being met, please speak with your instructor or Dr. Cindy Zeller (czeller@towson.edu), the designated diversity liaison.

Academic integrity:

The work that you present and submit must be your own! Details on proper citation and what constitutes "original work" will be discussed in class or provided for each assignment, with specific penalties for minor omissions/transgressions. Cheating on exams and mindlessly copying from natural or artificial intelligence sources does you harm, as it is akin to driving around the gym hoping to stay in shape. Moreover, violations of TU's policies on academic integrity carry significant penalties (such as a ZERO on an assignment or an F for the entire course) and must be reported to the Office of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices: https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/policies/03-01-00-student-academic-integrity-policy.html

Miscellaneous:

Assignments will be administered online via Blackboard. Therefore, a computer with stable internet access is required for this course. Should you encounter any issues related to technology, Towson University's Office of Technology Service may be able to help: https://www.towson.edu/technology

All information, schedules, dates, and policies outlined in this syllabus are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in writing via e-mail, and a revised version of the syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.