

CHM 227 – ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I SYLLABUS – FALL 2025

Instructor: Dr. Silvana C. Ngo
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Office hours: Drop-In: MWF 10:55 AM – 11:55 AM; 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Zoom (by appointment): TTh 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Class Meetings:
CHM 227-1: Beaupre 105 MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM
CHM 227-2: Beaupre 100 MWF 1:00 – 1:50 PM

General Information for Students

This sheet contains information about the organization of CHM 227 for this semester. It should be carefully read and retained, together with the course schedule, for future reference by each student taking the course.

Learning Objectives.

Organic chemistry is the study of carbon-containing compounds. CHM 227, the first of a sequence, deals with the structure, bonding and reactivity of principal classes of organic compounds. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify, name and understand the reactivity of alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, and derivatives of these compounds.
- Analyze the relationships between structure and properties of organic compounds.
- Predict the products of a reaction based on the properties of the reactants and an understanding of the mechanism.
- Write mechanisms for some common reactions.
- Do short synthesis of small molecules.
- Apply what they have learned to proceed to the second course of the sequence.

Books/Resources.

- Required: Textbook: Organic Chemistry, 10th ed; John McMurry. This book is free to download from Openstax (<https://openstax.org/details/books/organic-chemistry>).
- Required: Online access to Aktiv Chemistry.
- Strongly recommended: A molecular model set (available from www.megamolecules.com or any other vendor).
- Brightspace: Course materials (lecture slides, videos, study guides, worksheets, grades, weekly reminders) will be posted in Brightspace (<https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/>). Be sure to check Brightspace regularly throughout the semester. Print out the lecture slides and use them to take notes when watching the videos and during lecture in class.

Grading Policies.

A student's course grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams (Average of 4 in-class exams)	64 %
Final Exam	16 %
HW (Aktiv Chemistry)	15 %
Discussions	5 %
Total	100 %

Course grades will be assigned according to the scale shown:

>90.00 = A-/A 76 – 89.99 = B-/B/B+ 60 – 75.99 = C-/C/C+ 53 – 59.99 = D <53 = F

A student who has an average of at least 95.00 after 4 exams will be exempt from the final exam. A student's grade is earned by demonstrating mastery/proficiency of the course material as evinced by the quality of the student's performance in exams, assignments, and group work. It is *not* open to negotiation nor dictated by what's needed to progress in the student's chosen program of study. **Note:** You need a C- to move on to any other chemistry course in our department.

Missed exam policy. Two options are available for students who miss an exam. Option A: makeup exam on Reading day, 12/10, 10:00 AM. Option B: in lieu of a makeup exam, the final exam score will replace the zero from the missed exam. Do note students are allowed to avail of these options only once. Students who missed two exams are advised to drop the course and take it at another time when they can devote more time to it. Students who took all 4 exams will have their lowest exam score replaced by the final exam score if it is higher.

Total points for each exam will over 100 pts which means there are already extra credit points in it available to every student. ***No individual extra credit work will be given.*** Please do not ask for one.

Exam Format and Rules.

Exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam may require you to use information and concepts learned in previous chapters, so all exams are cumulative

You will be assigned a seat in Beaupre 105 (Sec. 1)/Beaupre 100 (Sec. 2) for taking all exams. You will receive a zero for a grade if you are not in your assigned seat for the exam. On exam days, wait outside the classroom until you are instructed to enter. All belongings must be left near the front of the room. Bring a pen (exams must be written in blue or black non erasable ink) and your URI ID. Once you have started the exam, you may not leave the room until you are finished. Please note that if the University is closed for any reason on an exam day, the exam will be given on the next class day the University is open.

Exam scores will be posted in Brightspace. Any errors in grading must be brought to my attention within 48 hours of the material being handed back. Come to office hours if you need help figuring out the answers to the ones you got wrong. Note that any request for re-grading must be submitted in writing and will result in the entire exam being re-graded. ***Exams must be taken in non erasable ink to be eligible for regrading.***

Group Work (GW).

Part of your learning experience in this class will involve working in groups of 4 – 5 students solving problems given in worksheets. This will give you a chance to discuss lecture topics, organize your thoughts, learn from each other, and practice to defend your answers. The GW will count as 25 points of the exam score for the corresponding chapters. There will be 4 worksheets covering the material from each chapter.

You will be assigned to a group at the beginning of classes and will work together with your group throughout the course. Each group will submit one copy of the completed worksheet as a scanned **pdf file** uploaded to Brightspace by the due date. Only one file per group will be accepted and should list the full names of the group members who contributed to the work. Due dates are indicated in the schedule below (as well as in Brightspace) and **no late or emailed work** will be accepted. You can use WebEx, Zoom, or Google Hangouts to meet with your group. Go to: <https://its.uri.edu/student-key-services/> for login information.

Assignments (HW).

There will be 12 HW assignments, one for each chapter we will cover plus an introductory one to get you acquainted with Aktiv Chemistry. Information on how to register for Aktiv Chemistry is given in Brightspace. HW due dates are indicated in the schedule below as well as in Aktiv Chemistry. Depending on the question type, you are given 5-10 chances to submit each question; however, only one submission per assignment is allowed. Late assignments will be accepted with a 2% credit loss per day. ***Last day to submit all late HW is 12/10/25.***

The Aktiv Chemistry assignments are long so do not wait until the last minute to start on them. Ideally, you should be working on them as you learn the material. Since the assignments are considered as study tools, you may work on them with your study groups. However, ensure that you are gaining understanding of the material instead of relying on others or just clicking the answers until you get the correct one. Gaming the system will be unproductive in the long run. Note that while some HW assignments are due on exam days for those chapters, I would advise you to do them before the exams.

To ensure that students understand the policies for the course, there will be a ***Syllabus Quiz*** (SQ, available in Brightspace on 9/3/25) which will be counted as a HW grade. The Syllabus Quiz is due at 11:59 PM on Monday, 9/8/25. The format is multiple choice and you can take it twice with only the best score counted. Doing the Syllabus Quiz signifies your intent to stay in the course. ***Students who do not complete the Syllabus Quiz will be dropped from the course.***

Discussions.

The Discussions forum for each chapter is available in Brightspace at 6:00 AM of the day we start a chapter and closes at 11:59 PM of the exam day for the chapter. You need to post at least **2 responses** to other students' posts in the forum to earn the points. Note that you need to start a thread before you can post responses. As a starting activity, we will have an icebreaker. Introduce yourself to your fellow students by posting something about yourself (in less than 5 sentences) to start a thread, then post responses to 2 other students' posts. Due dates are clearly indicated in Brightspace and no late work will be accepted.

Anti-Bias Statement.

We respect the rights and dignity of each individual and group. We reject prejudice and intolerance, and we work to understand differences. We believe that equity and inclusion are critical components for campus community members to thrive. If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to submit a report to the URI Bias Response Team at www.uri.edu/brt. There you will also find people and resources to help.

Disability Accommodations.

Your access in this course is important. Please get your paperwork processed at the Disability, Access, and Inclusion (DAI) offices and send me your accommodation letter early in the semester so that we have adequate time to discuss and arrange your approved academic accommodations. DAI can be reached by calling: 401-874-2098, visiting: <https://web.uri.edu/disability/> or emailing: dai@uri.edu.

Help Sources. (In addition to Dr. Ngo's office hours)

- Beaupre 115 Chemistry Learning Center. Help is available from Chemistry TAs at the Learning Center. A link to the TA schedule will be posted in Brightspace once it is finalized.
- AEC (Academic Enhancement Center). Located in Roosevelt Hall, the AEC offers free face-to-face and web-based services to students seeking academic support. Peer tutoring is available for STEM-based courses by appointment online or in-person. Academic skills consultations offer students strategies and activities aimed at improving their studying and test-taking skills. Additional information is available at their website (<https://web.uri.edu/aec/>).

Academic Integrity.

The university policy on academic honesty will be strictly enforced. Any incidence of academic dishonesty, as defined by the policies outlined in the URI's Student Handbook, will result in either one or all of the following: **a grade of zero for the exam, failure for the course, formal notification to the Dean**. While students are encouraged to study together, exams must represent the work of the individual student. The following are some examples of academic dishonesty:

- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty

Email.

All email communications will be done through your URI email so make sure you check it regularly. There are 2 sections of this course this semester, so to ensure that your email will be answered, it must include **CHM 227** and your **section** in the subject line. Please write a clear and concise message and be sure to include your full name. Emails will generally be answered within 48 hours of receipt. Emails received after 5:00 PM on a Friday will be answered the following Monday. Responses to email may be in the form of direct email or announcement/email from Brightspace. If you need to discuss personal matters, please make an appointment in Starfish for the Tuesday/Thursday office hours.

CHM 227 Lecture/Exam Schedule

The breakdown for each chapter will depend on the pace of the class. You are responsible for all of the material in each chapter unless announced differently and for material presented during lectures, including those not in the textbook.

Week #	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1		9/3 Syllabus; Ch 1	9/5 Ch 1
2	9/8 Ch 1	9/10 Ch 1	9/12 Ch 1
3	9/15 Ch 2	9/17 Ch 2	9/19 Ch 2
4	9/22 Ch 2	9/24 Exam 1 (Ch 1 – 2)	9/26 Ch 3
5	9/29 Ch 3	10/1 Ch 3	10/3 Ch 3
6	10/6 Ch 4	10/8 Ch 4	10/10 Ch 4
7	10/13 No Class (Columbus Day)	10/15 Ch 5	10/17 Ch 5
8	10/20 Ch 5	10/22 Ch 5	10/24 Ch 5
9	10/27 Exam 2 (Ch 3 - 5)	10/29 Ch 6	10/31 Ch 6, 7
10	11/3 Ch 7	11/5 Ch 7	11/7 Ch 8
11	11/10 Ch 8	11/12 Ch 8	11/14 Exam 3 (Ch 6 – 8)
12	11/17 Ch 9	11/19 Ch 9	11/21 Ch 10, 11
13	11/24 Ch 11	11/26 No Class (Thanksgiving)	11/28 No Class (Thanksgiving)
14	12/1 Ch 11	12/3 Ch 11	12/5 Ch 11
15	12/8 Exam 4 (Ch 9 – 11)	12/10 Reading Day	
16	12/15 Final Exam Sec 1: 8:00 – 10:00 AM Sec 2: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM		

CHM 227 Assignment and Group Work Schedule

	Week #	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept	1					
	2	9/8 SQ, HW-Intro				9/12 HW 1
	3					
	4	9/22 HW 2, GW 1				
Oct	5					10/3 HW 3
	6					10/10 HW 4
	7					
	8					10/24 GW 2, HW 5
	9					10/31 HW 6
Nov	10			11/5 HW 7		
	11			11/12 GW 3, HW 8		
	12			11/19 HW 9		
	13					
Dec	14					12/5 GW 4, HW 11