Chemistry 224-011 – Spring 2017 – Syllabus

Course  
Chemistry 224, Organic Chemistry B, 3 Credits, Lecture and discussion

Prerequisites  
Chemistry 223 or 221 – a student missing a prerequisite may be withdrawn at any time

Lecture  
MWF 10:25 -11:15 am  Section 224-011

Discussion  
You must attend the section for which you are registered: Mondays 11:30am or 1:40pm

Instructor & Contact Information  
Dr. Sandra Helquist, Flanner Hall 200B (shared office, please knock)

Email policy: to receive a response, either use the email function in Sakai to send to Instructor (via select recipients) and leave subject line blank OR use your Loyola email address and put only “Chem 224-011” in the subject line, send to shelquist@luc.edu; in most cases I will be able to respond within 24 hours during the week when I am on campus.

Office Hours policy: just show up! You are welcome to stop by at any time to see if my door is open and check my posted schedule. For regular office hours, just show up with your questions anytime during: Mondays 12:30-1:30pm, Tuesdays 10-11am & 1-2pm, Wednesdays 12-2pm; occasional extra hours may be announced in class.

Course Materials  
Organic Chemistry, Wade, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, hard copy or eText (Required)

Highly recommended: Organic Chemistry II: As a Second Language, Klein; use of a molecular modeling kit and the solutions manual for the textbook is also recommended; the books are also on reserve at the library.  Daily access to your Loyola email account and Loyola’s Sakai site sakai.luc.edu are also required to receive communications from the instructor and to access course materials, assignments, scores.  You will not be permitted to use a calculator on exams.

Course Content & Objectives

Content-specific Objectives  
Topics will include: conjugated π systems, aromatics, carbonyl compounds, amines, carboxylic acids and their derivatives, carbohydrates, amino acids, biopolymers.  The student should learn how to:

1. apply material (principles, concepts, skills) learned in the first semester course (nomenclature, structure, reactions, mechanisms, spectroscopy, synthesis) to the study of second semester topics.
2. identify the various classes of organic compounds, their methods of preparation, and typical reactions.
3. name and draw specific organic compounds.
4. postulate a logical reaction mechanism for organic reactions.
5. discriminate among relative stabilities of reaction intermediates.
6. plan and write out multi-step syntheses using known functional group transformations, including syntheses of polyfunctional organic compounds.
7. name, draw and interpret the 2- and 3-dimensional structures of important biopolymers, and techniques for their synthesis and characterization.
8. analyze and interpret data from various instruments used in separating and identifying organic compounds including: IR, NMR, UV-vis and MS.

IDEA Objectives  
These objectives include learning outcomes beyond this course and will apply across multiple courses and disciplines as you develop as an independent learner at Loyola.  These have been selected by the Organic faculty:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth
4. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Expectations  
I expect you to show up on time for each class and to come prepared, having kept up with the material by working problems and having read ahead in the textbook.  I expect you to use class and office hour time to learn the material by engaging with classmates and asking questions.  Make-up assignments are not available for this course.  You will need to contact a classmate for notes, sections/topics covered if you miss a class.  Be courteous: save your electronic messaging for after class.  Plan your schedule so you have at least 10 hours per week outside of class for reading, working problems, asking questions, i.e., studying (learning) the material on a Daily Basis.  You may require up to 20 hours per week depending on prior preparation for this course.  Make time for this course every day: do not count on cramming on weekends or before exams as you will be much less likely to master the course objectives listed above.  If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to promptly contact a classmate for notes and topics covered.

Accommodations  
Students requiring accommodations must provide appropriate documentation from the University and meet with the instructor to discuss arrangements.  Accommodations are provided after receiving documentation and allowance of a reasonable time frame for implementation: minimally, one week in advance of an exam.  Accommodations cannot be retroactive.  Information for students with disabilities is available at: http://www.luc.edu/sswd/
Academic Integrity
You are encouraged to study with other students in and out of class, however, anything submitted for an individual grade during or outside of class must represent your own knowledge and understanding of the material. Evidence of cheating (for homework, quiz, or exam) will result in, at a minimum, a “zero” on the item and penalty up to failure of the course, as well as referral to the Dean’s Office. For the Undergraduate Catalog statement on academic integrity, visit: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Grading  Graded assessments (quizzes, exams) will be used to assess your level of mastery of the Course Content and Objectives as listed on the first page of this syllabus, and Course Grades will be assigned based on the quality of achievement you demonstrate on graded assessments. Extra/make-up assignments are not available for this course. Your Chemistry 224 grade will depend on the following: Participation 4% + Quizzes 16% + Exams 80% = Total 100% Letter grades are based on fixed percentages for this course so that all students are graded based on consistent standards. Generally, 85.0% is the lowest A-; 70.0% is the lowest B-; 55.0% is the lowest C-; 40.0% is the lowest D. Cutoffs for plus/minus grades are not published as they will be determined by the overall distribution of course scores.

Participation: The purpose of participation assignments is to help all students keep pace with the class, as well as to inform the instructor and the class of common misconceptions. You will get as much benefit from these assignments as you choose to put forth in your individual effort. There will be 1-3 assignments per week as needed. Assignments will be submitted mostly during class, and occasionally pre- or post-lecture. Most submissions will be electronic but some will require submission of a hard copy. Each assignment will be worth one point, and will be graded based on timely and meaningful completion. Remember, there are no make-up assignments for this course.

Quizzes: The purpose of quizzes in general is for the benefit of the student as a learning tool: use the feedback you receive to adjust your daily studying habits. The purpose of the dropped quiz policy is primarily to account for unavoidable absence by the student: every missed quiz receives a score of zero. No early quizzes, no make-ups! Quizzes will be given individually and/or in groups, in class and/or as take-home activities. Most quizzes will be given in class, and dates/times/content of quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. Keep up! Come to class prepared! The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the term: all remaining quiz scores will be averaged (by percent, so that equal weight is given to each quiz) to obtain the overall quiz contribution to the course grade.

Exams: The purpose of the exams is to assess your individual level of mastery of the Course Content and Objectives. No early exams, no make-ups! Unexcused absence (traffic, weather, oversleeping, forgetfulness, etc) results in a ZERO. Excused absences require documentation of an unforeseeable emergency but do not result in a make-up exam.

- Midterm Exams: 50 minutes, February 8, March 3, April 5, 16% each toward course grade. Organic chemistry material is highly cumulative over 2 semesters: all exams will require application of prior knowledge.
- Final Exam: Monday May 1st 9-11 am as scheduled by the University, 32% of course grade. The final exam is Mandatory: students who do not take the final will automatically receive a course grade of F.

Exam Procedure: Use of your own models is permitted. Phones, other electronic devices, calculators are not permitted. If seen or heard, will be confiscated along with exam copy and student will be dismissed. Seating arrangements may be altered before or during the exam. Show up early with two items: (1) your Loyola ID, visible on desk to be checked; (2) working pencil(s) or standard blue/black ink pens. All jackets, bags, loose accessories, etc must be left at the front of the classroom. Once the exam is distributed, if you exit the room (quietly, please), for any reason before time is up, your exam is considered complete and will be collected. I will return your midterm exams during the discussion periods or in office hours (copies will be kept). Scoring errors must be brought to my attention in person no later than one week after the exams are returned. The final exam cannot be returned.

Homework: Preparation, Practice, Self-Assessment
Very Highly Recommended: On quizzes and exams you will be expected to answer questions and solve problems, so you should study by answering questions and solving problems, i.e., applying the concepts discussed in class and read from your textbook to non-generic compounds. When you cannot answer a question correctly on the first attempt, do not dismiss it! Figure out WHY you made the mistake (particularly important if you cannot identify the type of problem or if you have a misconception about the material), WHY the correct answer is correct, HOW you can recognize and apply the correct concepts and methods for solving that type of problem in the future, and FINALLY, attempt several more problems of that type until you can solve on the first attempt. Come to office hours for help with any part of this process as often as needed, especially if you do not understand why/how you are making particular mistakes!

Pre-lecture: The purpose of reading ahead and working problems within the textbook sections is to help you come prepared to get the most out of our class time: I expect you bring questions to class. Post-lecture: Review notes/textbook as needed, then complete as many of the end-of-chapter exercises as possible every day. The purpose of these problems is to help you continue to learn the material and to self-assess, critically and honestly, so you can gauge your progress toward meeting the course objectives. Use these to determine how much help and extra practice you need on a daily basis and prior to exams. A list of Very Highly Recommended textbook problems will be posted on Sakai.
Best Practices & Suggestions

Students often ask me, “How do I get a/an (fill in grade of choice here) in this class?” The answer is simple (see the grading policy for the course), but the process of learning is challenging and can even be uncomfortable as you are pushed to expand the boundaries of your knowledge and abilities. Grades are earned based on how well you demonstrate mastery of the Course Content and Objectives listed on Page 1 of this syllabus: please reread carefully and completely. The top grade of ‘A’ earned by demonstrating complete (not partial) mastery of all (not some/most) of the course material on all (not some/most) of the quizzes and exams. To earn a grade of ‘C’ you will need to demonstrate good mastery of most (not some) of the course material. Please continue reading for the best suggestions I have from my own experience as a student and as a teacher, and the experiences of my mentors, colleagues, and former students.

1. Take ownership of your learning. You are in charge of your learning in this course, and you are in charge of what you do on a daily basis to meet your goals for achievement, in this course and in your time at Loyola. If you need help to achieve your goals, keep up with minimal pre and post-lecture reading and homework, attend office hours, form a study group that meets more than once per week, but also plan on putting in as much individual time, often struggling with the material, to master concepts and problem types and strategies to your desired level of achievement.

2. Remembering topics is necessary but not sufficient: Understanding the material is crucial. There are many ways to state this distinction, for example: you need to know more than the chemistry content, you must understand the chemical concepts. You should already have some experience with this distinction from your prerequisite Chemistry courses as well as having learned that simply trying to memorize content does not typically lead to sustained learning. You will be asked to recognize, explain and predict trends in structure, properties and reactivity, so get curious! It is one thing to know what happens, but it is often more satisfying to know why it happens.

3. Chemistry material, by nature, is highly cumulative. You must have good to excellent understanding of the concepts from the first semester Organic Chemistry in order to apply that knowledge as you begin to learn the second semester material. We will refer back to basic concepts and principles of the first semester material incessantly and relentlessly. Review early and as often as needed – see me with review questions early and as often as needed!

4. To deal with the highly cumulative nature of the material, the best plan is to study by working problems every day so you are prepared for each class and each new topic covered. Work the recommended problems until you can complete them on the first attempt without assistance from your notes, book, classmates, tutors, or the solutions manual. Ask yourself each time: what type of problem is this? Break up your studying, know when you have reached your limit for new content and take a break, give yourself time to process and assimilate before moving on to even more new material. In the academic year, plan on 1.5 to 2.5+ hours every day of the week. Falling behind is unacceptable if you wish to fundamentally understand concepts in order to apply them to solve problems and demonstrate mastery of the material.

5. Foundational concepts, trends and patterns are still your friends. If you attempt to memorize everything separately, you will have great difficulty distinguishing problems types and will soon reach your limit of remembering even the basic content. We will spend significant time in class discussing/highlighting/reviewing how structure connects to reactivity patterns: nucleophiles, electrophiles, acids, bases, and sometimes redox. Make sure you understand the general reactivity of each class of compound based on each structure: look for the trends!

6. Even though I am asking you not to rely strictly on memorization, you will still have to remember content. Remembering is a prerequisite for understanding, applying, and analyzing: these levels of learning will form the basis for your assessment. If you are curious, check out this interactive pyramid depicting Bloom’s Taxonomy: http://media.ccconline.org/ccco/FacWiki/TeachingResources/Blooms_Taxonomy_Tutorials/BloomsTaxonomy_Verbs_Pyramid/BloomsTaxonomyVerbsPyramid.swf

As you continue in your undergraduate coursework, the transitions from 100- to 200- to 300-level courses will include transitions to higher-order thinking skills being emphasized for your learning and assessed in your coursework.

7. If you are solving problems and asking questions on a Daily Basis, you have already studied for your Exams by learning the course material! Begin to review for each test a few days in advance. You may wish to use the Summary: Reactions of (class of compound), Essential Problem Solving Skills, Essential Terms listed at the end of chapter as a review tool, or to make your own study guides from lecture outlines or quizzes prior to exams.

Other Items

- A link to the official Loyola calendar can be found here: http://luc.edu/academics/schedules/index.shtml
- The Withdrawal deadline for the semester is Monday March 27th. Students can seek assistance with LOCUS procedures from the Department office (Flanner 125), or from academic advising in the Sullivan Center.
- For information about Loyola tutoring in the Sullivan Center, see: http://www.luc.edu/tutoring/
- A tentative Course Schedule is posted in the Sakai Course Materials section and will be updated as needed.
- A list of Homework, Highly Recommended Textbook problems is posted in the Sakai Course Materials section.
- Additional resources will be continually posted and updated on Sakai.

Best wishes for a successful semester. Let me know what I can do to help you achieve your goals in this course.