

CHEM 0350: Principles of Organic Chemistry

Fall 2025

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Lingfeng Liu
Email: lfliu@pitt.edu
Office: Chevron Science Center 605B
Office phone: (412) 624-3111
Office hours: Tuesday 12:00-12:50pm & Friday 2:00-2:50pm

Lecture Monday / Wednesday / Friday 10:00–10:50am G36 Benedum Hall

Lecture notes will be posted in Modules on Canvas before each lecture. Lectures will be recorded using Panopto. The recordings will be available in the Panopto tab on Canvas after each class. The recordings should ONLY be used as an additional resource. Students are **required** to attend the lectures.

Required Text Brown, W. and Poon, T. Introduction to Organic Chemistry. Wiley. 6th Ed.

Other Course Materials

1. Molecular Model Set (recommended)
2. Student Solutions Guide for Introduction to Organic Chemistry. Wiley. 6th Ed. (strongly recommended)

Course Description This is a one-semester course in organic chemistry that will introduce students to fundamental principles including molecular structure, organic reactions, and mechanisms. As rigorous as the traditional two-term organic chemistry course, topics are chosen for their relevance to students entering a biological sciences-oriented career.

Canvas Canvas course site will be used to post course materials. All enrolled students have access to the canvas web site at <http://canvas.pitt.edu>. Important course documents and announcements are located on this site. It is up to you to check the Pitt Canvas site regularly to make sure you are aware of any new announcements. Any change in mode of instruction, or other course adjustments, will be posted on Canvas.

Textbook problems Each chapter in our book provides many problems to reinforce the concepts in the text and to encourage a deeper level of thinking and understanding. A set of the end-of-chapter questions will be given for each chapter for focused practice. You are also encouraged to practicing on the other problems that are not listed. These exercises will be essential to strengthening your command of the lecture topics and for exam preparation. Think carefully and try your best for each question before checking answer keys in the Student Solution Guide. Selected textbook questions may be discussed in UTA-led reviews.

Tutoring Tutoring will be available, FREE, from the Chemistry Department (CSC 245) (<https://www.chem.pitt.edu/undergraduate/bachelor-science-chemistry/tutoring>). Pitt's Study Lab offers individual and small group tutoring for Chem 0320 for free

(<https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/study-lab>)

Q & A

If you have questions about the end-of-chapter problems or the lecture materials, you are recommended to:

1. Bring the questions to office hours or recitations for discussions because for most organic chemistry problems, in-person discussions are the most effective.
2. Post questions on the discussion board. The instructor would start a discussion thread for each chapter. Please post your questions in the thread of the corresponding chapter. The instructor and TAs would respond to questions daily. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the discussions.
3. Post questions on the class GroupMe led by UTAs. UTAs would respond daily.
4. Discuss your questions with graduate student tutors provided by the department as a free tutoring service (<https://www.chem.pitt.edu/undergraduate/bachelor-science-chemistry/tutoring>) or tutors at the Study Lab (<https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/study-lab>).
5. Please email the instructor for personal matters (excusal, questions about grades, etc.).

Exams

There will be three midterms and a final exam, all of which will be administered as in-person, paper-based exams and graded through Gradescope. A tentative course schedule is provided at the end of the syllabus, and **midterms will take place during lecture times**. Exam dates will only change in extreme extenuating circumstances affecting the instructor or the entire class. Please plan ahead, as there are **no make-up exams**. If you miss one midterm, your lowest midterm score will be dropped at the end of the term (details on grade calculation are provided in the 'Final Grade' section). This policy is in place to accommodate students who miss a midterm due to extenuating circumstances. If you miss more than one midterm, please consult with your advisor or the SAS Dean's Office to discuss your options.

Exam Regrades

Students have one week from the day the exam (except the final exam) is returned to contact the instructor and graders about grading questions. After that time, the score for the exam is final and will NOT be changed. To request a re-grade of any portion of your exam, you must submit your request in Gradescope and explain why you think the grading was in error. Please consult the answer key and your course learning materials prior to submitting your request. Upon receiving the re-grade request, not just the requested portion but **the entire exam** would be re-graded.

Final Grade

Your final grade will be determined on the basis of your total points earned for the semester using the following criteria. Your final percentile grade will be calculated using two calculation methods shown in the table below: either counting all exams or dropping one midterm. The higher of the two would be your final percentile grade.

Criteria	Total Possible	Total Possible (Drop a midterm)
In-class Assignments (Drop the lowest)	50	50
Three midterms (100 pts each)	3 X 100	2 X 125
Final Exam (150 pts)	150	200
Total	500	500

Your final letter grade will be assigned based on the percentage of course points that you earn throughout the semester. Nominally, students earning 90-100% of the points will earn

A-range grades, students earning 80-90% of the points will earn B-range grades, etc.; the instructor will never curve grades down, but may curve grades up as necessary to compensate for overly difficult exams and assignments.

G Grades

If you wish to request a G grade, you must submit a written petition, including documentation of your reasons. You will also need to arrange specific tasks (e.g., final exam or paper) required to be completed within a specified time. Please note, according to SAS guidelines, G grades are only granted when students, who have been attending and making regular progress, are unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond their control, after the withdrawal deadline has passed. The G grade must be resolved no later than one year after the term in which the course was taken. A 'G' grade should not be requested if the course needs to be repeated.

Equity and Inclusion

It is my goal that students from all backgrounds and identities feel welcomed and well-served by this course. If you experience or observe anything within this course that deviates from DEI, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible so that we may take steps to address them.

Additionally, please remember that the University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, see:<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/policies-procedures-and-practices>.

Academic Integrity

We take academic integrity violations very seriously in all online quizzes and exams.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using cell phones or other electronic devices to obtain outside information during an exam.
- Disclosing exam content during or after you have taken an exam. This includes sending your exam questions to another student, a tutor, and any online tutoring service.
- Copying any material from another student, or from another source such as the Internet, unless the instructor gives you explicit permission to do so.

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy.

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228- 5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys

Students in this class will be asked to complete a Student Opinion of Teaching Survey. Surveys will be sent via Pitt email and appear on your Canvas landing page during the last three weeks of class meeting days. Your responses are anonymous. Please take time to thoughtfully respond, your feedback is important to me. [Read more](#) about Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys.

Your Well-being Matters

While you are working hard to achieve your academic and professional goals, please take time to care for yourself and seek appropriate support when necessary. You are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep, and taking time to relax.

It can be helpful to remember that we all benefit from assistance and guidance at times, and there are many resources available to support your well-being while you are at Pitt. If you or anyone you know experiences overwhelming academic stress, persistent difficult feelings and/or challenging life events, you are strongly encouraged to seek support. In addition to reaching out to friends and loved ones, consider connecting with a faculty member you trust for assistance connecting to helpful resources. The University Counseling Center is also here for you. You can call 412-648-7930 at any time to connect with a clinician.

CHEM 0350 Lecture Schedule – Fall 2025 (tentative)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Aug 25, 27, 29	Chapter 1 – Covalent Bonding and Shape of Molecules
Sep 3, 5	Chapter 2 – Acids and Bases
Sep 8, 10, 12	Chapter 3 – Alkanes and Cycloalkanes
Sep 15	Chapter 4 – Alkenes and Alkynes
Sep 17, 19, 22	Chapter 5 – Reactions of Alkenes and Alkynes
Sep 24, 26	Chapter 6 – Chirality: The Handedness of Molecules
Sep 29	Midterm 1 (Chapter 1 - 5)
Oct 1, 3, 6	Chapter 7 – Haloalkanes
Oct 8, 13	Chapter 8 – Alcohols, Ethers and Thiols
Oct 15, 17	Chapter 9 – Benzenes and Its Derivatives
Oct 20	Chapter 10 – Amines
Oct 22, 24	Chapter 12 – Aldehydes & Ketones
Oct 27	Midterm 2 (Chapter 6-10)
Oct 29, 31	Chapter 12 – Aldehydes & Ketones
Nov 3, 5	Chapter 13 - Carboxylic Acids
Nov 7, 10, 12	Chapter 14 – Functional Derivatives of Carboxylic Acids
Nov 14, 17	Chapter 15 – Enolate Anions
Nov 19	Midterm 3 (Chapter 12 - 14)
Nov 21, Dec 1	Chapter 15 – Enolate Anions
Dec 3	Chapter 18 – Amino Acids and Proteins
Dec 5	Final Exam Review

Dec 9

Final Exam