November 2026

CHEM 0320: Organic Chemistry II | Spring 2027
Professor Sophie Shevick (pronounced "SHEH-vik")
Chevron 807 | https://www.chem.pitt.edu/people/sophie-shevick
Lecture: MW 6-7:15PM, Chevron 152
Recitation: M 7:20-8:10PM, Chevron 152
Office Hours: TBD

[*This is a tentative syllabus and subject to changes (November 2026)*]

Course Description:

Welcome to CHEM 320! CHEM 320 is the second semester of organic chemistry and builds off of the knowledge and skills learned in the first semester of organic chemistry. Topics of this term will include conjugation, pericyclic reactions, aromaticity, carbonyl chemistry, amines, and an introduction to organometallic complexes. The course will prepare students for work in advanced topics of organic chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering and health related sciences.

CHEM 320 is a 3-unit course, which corresponds to approximately 6 hours of independent study outside of lecture and recitation per week.

Prerequisites: CHEM 310, CHEM 730, CHEM 206 or CHEM 231

Teaching Fellow: TBD

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTA's): TBD

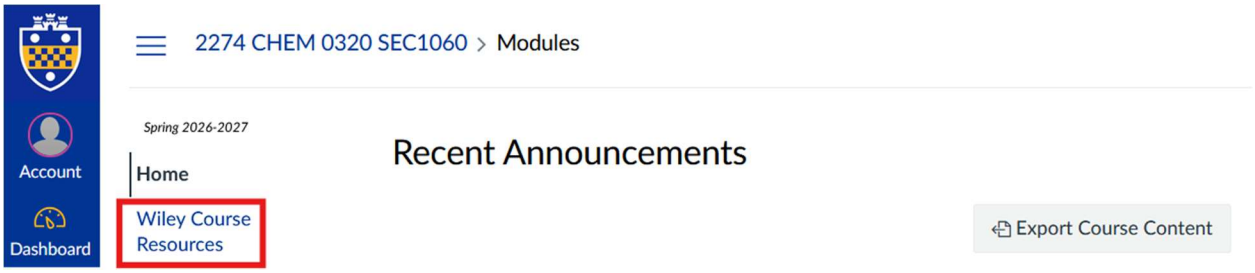
Important Dates: *Midterm exam dates are subject to change*.

Midterm 1	2/15/2027
Midterm 2	3/22/2027
Midterm 3	4/14/2027
Final Exam	TBD
Drop Period Ends	1/22/2027 (extended drop deadline 1/29/2027)
Final Exam Conflict Form Submission Deadline	3/15/2027

Required Textbook:

- Klein, D. and Starkey, L. (2025) *Organic Chemistry*. Wiley & Sons, Inc. 5th Ed.
- Klein, D. and Starkey, L. (2025) Solutions Manual for *Organic Chemistry*. Wiley & Sons, Inc. 5th Ed.

Both resources are available for no additional cost on Canvas (see below):



Optional Textbook:

- Klein, D. (2024) *Organic Chemistry as a Second Language: First Semester Topics.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 6th Ed.
- Vollhardt, P. and Schore, N. (2018) *Organic Chemistry: Structure and Function*. W.H. Freeman and Company. 8th Ed.
- Vollhardt, P. and Schore, N. (2018) Student Guide and Solutions Manual for *Organic Chemistry: Structure and Function*. W.H. Freeman and Company. 8th Ed.

Communication Policy:

Canvas will be the primary means for communicating throughout the course. All course announcements will be communicated via Announcements on Canvas. You are responsible for checking these announcements by email and/or on the Canvas site on a regular basis.

All course-related inquiries should be submitted via Canvas's messaging system (access Canvas and click on "Inbox" on the left-hand side). I will respond to messages within two business days. There are very few instances where you should email me directly about a question related to the course. If you must email me (sshevick@pitt.edu), please put "CHEM320" in the subject line, otherwise you may receive a delayed response.

Please read the syllabus! The syllabus outlines the course structure, expectations and grading schemes of the course. If you message me a question answered on the syllabus, I will point you to the syllabus.

A general guide for where to direct your questions:

Syllabus: I will answer remaining questions about the syllabus during the first week of class.

Homework questions: office hours or through Canvas Discussions tab.

Exam Make-up: As specified in the syllabus, I will not offer make-up exams. If you know ahead of time (within the first two weeks of the course) that you will miss an exam, please reach out to me through the Canvas Messaging system.

Exam Regrade: If you have reason to believe your exam grade should be reevaluated, you can submit a regrade request through Gradescope within one

week from when exam grades are released. A regrade request means the entire exam may be regraded, which could increase or lower your grade. Please use these requests only if you have a serious concern about your grade.

Recitations:

Recitations will be held after Monday lecture from 7:20-8:10PM in Chevron 152. Attending recitation is optional, but highly recommended. There will be no recitations on the same day as a midterm (2/15 and 3/22) or during official University holidays and breaks (1/18 and 3/8).

Grading Outline:

There are two grading schemes that are possible for this class. For every student, the grading scheme that leads to the higher grade will be used to determine the final letter grade.

Grading Scheme 1:

10% WileyPlus Assignments (approximately 10)
60% Midterm Exams. Each midterm is worth 20% each.
30% Final Exam

Grading Scheme 2:

10% WileyPlus Assignments (approximately 10)
50% Midterm Exams. Two highest-scoring midterms are worth 25% each.
40% Final Exam

Letter grades will be assigned according to the table below:

A+ = 100.00 – 97.00%	A = 96.99 – 93.00%	A– = 92.99 – 90.00%
B+ = 89.99 – 87.00%	B = 86.99 – 83.00%	B– = 82.99 – 80.00%
C+ = 79.99 – 77.00%	C = 76.99 – 73.00%	C– = 72.99 – 70.00%
D = 69.99 – 60.00%	F = below 60.00%	

During the semester, I will share aggregate grade distributions after each exam, so you can assess your progress. Any letter grade adjustments will be made considering the aggregate grade distribution for the class *at the end of the course*. Letter grade ranges may be adjusted downwards, if necessary. For example, if your course percentage is a 79.99%, you are guaranteed at least a “C+” but may receive a higher grade depending on class trends. I cannot tell you what your final course grade will be before the end of the course!

Exam Policy:

There will be three midterm exams and a final exam. All exams will be given during the regularly scheduled class meeting and/or the final exam period. Midterms will be graded through Gradescope.

You should be in your seat, ready to take the exam at the beginning of the testing period (i.e. 6PM). If you are late, you can use the remaining exam time, but you will not get extra time. If you enter the room after the first student has turned in their exam and left the room, you will not be allowed to take the exam and/or make it up. You may use a model kit, but no cell phones or calculators are permitted. Please write legibly, as illegible work will not receive credit.

There will be no make-up midterm exams given. If you know in advance that you will not be able to take a scheduled exam due to a University-sanctioned athletic or academic event, religious conflict, or health-related reasons (such as a scheduled surgery), please contact me within the first two weeks of the semester to make other arrangements. If you miss a midterm exam, Grading Scheme 2 will be used to determine your grade.

If you have arranged alternative testing accommodation through the Office of Disability Resources (DRS), you can schedule an alternative test up to three days before the exam date, but not after the exam (6PM on the date of the exam). (For example, for a Monday midterm exam, you can schedule your exam on the Friday before or Monday before 6PM). Be advised that the testing center can fill up, and you should expect to schedule your exam at least one week in advance. I will not offer a make-up exam if you forget to schedule alternative test-taking time.

The final exam will be cumulative and include materials from Chapters 16-23, and basic spectroscopy concepts from Chapters 14-15. You must take the final exam to pass the course. If you are aware of a conflict with the final exam time, you must submit a Final Exam Conflict Form by 3/15/27 to the University Registrar's office.

WileyPlus Online Homework Assignments:

An assignment schedule will be posted during the first two weeks of class.

There will be approximately ten (10) online homework assignments throughout the course. You will have one week (or more) to complete homework after it is assigned. A late assignment (one day late) will receive a maximum of 70% of the total points. All assignments are graded on completion, not correctness. The lowest score (including a missed or late assignment) will be dropped.

Classroom Environment:

My goal is to create a positive learning atmosphere for everyone. Please treat classmates, TAs, and me with respect, in person and online. Arrive on time and stay until class ends, since packing up early will disrupt the lecture. I encourage you to take notes on paper or a tablet. Using your laptop and/or phone can distract the people around you, unless you have an approved accommodation. Questions are welcome at any point during the lecture and should be indicated by raising your hand. Recording lectures is not permitted without written permission (see below).

Tutoring Resources:

Visit https://www.chem.pitt.edu/undergraduate/tutoring for information on peer-led and fee-based tutoring options. There is also "On the Balcony" tutoring offered by senior undergraduate students (Tutoring - University Of Pittsburgh American Chemical Society).

Organic chemistry is best learned through practice! I encourage you to work through problems on the homework, recitation, and in lecture to solidify your understanding of the material.

Disability Resources and Services:

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. If you have a disability for which you are, or may be, requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, as early as possible in the term. DRS will engage in a review process with you to determine eligibility and reasonable accommodations. If you are already registered with DRS, please complete the necessary steps on the DRS Student Portal to utilize your accommodations this term.

Academic Integrity:

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity (opens in a new tab). 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. To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the Academic Integrity Guide (opens in a new tab) for an overview of the topic.

Accessibility:

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to providing equal access (opens in a new tab) by making all electronic and information technology accessible to all users. This includes instructional materials and the Canvas LMS platform (opens in a new tab).

- If you experience accessibility issues regarding course-specific material, please reach out to the instructor.
- If you experience a University-wide or other large-scale accessibility issue, please report the digital accessibility barrier (opens in a new tab) to the Digital Accessibility Coordinator.
- If you are registered with Disability Resources and Services (opens in a new tab) and experience issues with approved accommodations, you may contact

Disability Resources and Services (opens in a new tab) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu.

Religious Observances:

The University of Pittsburgh strives to foster a supportive environment and to respect the beliefs and values of all community members. Accordingly, recognizing that certain students may observe religious holidays (activities observed by a religious group of which a student is a member) and cultural practices that conflict with scheduled class activities, instructors will work with students to try to make reasonable accommodations in the event of such a conflict.

At the beginning of the semester, you should review the course requirements to identify foreseeable conflicts with assignments, exams, or other required attendance. If you identify a conflict, please contact your instructor, ideally within the first two weeks of the first class meeting, to allow time to discuss and attempt to make fair and reasonable adjustments to the schedule and/or tasks.

Statement on Classroom Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting, and Title IX

If you are experiencing sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and stalking, please report it to me and I will connect you to University resources to support you.

University faculty and staff members are required to report all instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. When a report is made, individuals can expect to be contacted by the Title IX Office with information about support resources and options related to safety, accommodations, process, and policy. I encourage you to use the services and resources that may be most helpful to you.

As your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me. You can also report directly to Office of Civil Rights and Title IX: 412-648-7860 (M-F; 8:30am-5:00pm) or via the Pitt Concern Connection.

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as a relevant part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Pittsburgh. If you wish to make a confidential report, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

- The University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 AM to 5 PM M-F) and 412-648-7856 (after business hours)
- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (community resource): 1-866-363-7273 (24/7).
- If you have an immediate safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121.

Student Wellness:

Your well-being plays an important role in your ability to learn, engage, and succeed academically, and seeking support when needed is a normal and healthy part of the academic experience. Visit the Student Wellness resources site to learn more about available resources, schedule appointments, and connect with support services. Mental health support is also available 24/7 through the University Counseling Center at 412-648-7930. You can also call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, or text HOME to 741741 to connect with the Crisis Text Line. If there is a risk of harm to yourself or others, contact University of Pittsburgh Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911.

Copyright Notice:

These materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See Library of Congress Copyright Office (opens in a new tab) and the University Copyright Policy (opens in a new tab).

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

The following is a tentative lecture schedule. The dates and content of the midterms are subject to change. We will not have time to cover content from Chapters 14-15 (IR, mass spectrometry, and NMR) during dedicated lecture time. Instead, content from those chapters will be taught through the lab course lecture, recitation, online assignments, and self-study.

Week	Lecture #	Date	Day	Chapter / Content
1	1	11-Jan	Mon	Introduction & Ch. 16: dienes
	2	13-Jan	Wed	Ch 16: diene reactivity & molecular orbitals
2		*18-Jan*	*Mon*	*NO CLASS: MLK Day*
	3	20-Jan	Wed	Ch 16: Diels-Alder
3	4	25-Jan	Mon	Ch 16: Diels-Alder
	5	27-Jan	Wed	Ch 17: Aromatic compounds
4	6	1-Feb	Mon	Ch 17: Aromatic compounds
	7	3-Feb	Wed	Ch 18: EAS
5	8	8-Feb	Mon	Ch 18: EAS
	9	10-Feb	Wed	Ch 18 wrap-up + Ch. 19: Aldehydes and ketones
6	**10**	**15-Feb**	**Mon**	**MIDTERM 1: Ch 16-17 + Ch 18 (EAS)**
	11	17-Feb	Wed	Ch 19: Aldehydes and ketones
7	12	22-Feb	Mon	Ch 19: Aldehydes and ketones
	13	24-Feb	Wed	Ch 19: Aldehydes and ketones
8	14	1-Mar	Mon	Ch 18: SNAr + Ch 20: Carboxylic acids and derivatives
	15	3-Mar	Wed	Ch 20: Carboxylic acids and derivatives
Break		*8-Mar*	*Mon*	*NO CLASS: Spring break*
Break		*10-Mar*	*Wed*	*NO CLASS: Spring break*
9	16	15-Mar	Mon	Ch 20: Carboxylic acids and derivatives
	17	17-Mar	Wed	Ch 20: Carboxylic acids and derivatives
10	**18**	**22-Mar**	**Mon**	**MIDTERM 2: Ch 19-20 + Ch 18 (SNAr)**
	19	24-Mar	Wed	Ch 21: Alpha carbon chemistry: enols & enolates
11	20	29-Mar	Mon	Ch 21: Alpha carbon chemistry: enols & enolates
	21	31-Mar	Wed	Ch 21: Alpha carbon chemistry: enols & enolates
12	22	5-Apr	Mon	Ch 21: Alpha carbon chemistry: enols & enolates
	23	7-Apr	Wed	Ch 22: Amines
13	24	12-Apr	Mon	Ch 22: Amines
	25	**14-Apr**	**Wed**	**MIDTERM 3: Ch 21-22**
14	26	19-Apr	Mon	Ch 23: Introduction to organometallics
	27	21-Apr	Wed	Ch 23: Introduction to organometallics
15		**TBD**	**TBD**	**FINALS WEEK**