Official course description: An introduction to theory and practice of organic chemistry through study of structural principles, reaction mechanisms, and synthesis leading toward end of second term, when complex molecules of biological interest are discussed. Basic goals of the course are to develop appreciation and skill in methods of molecular analysis which have made organic chemistry such a powerful intellectual discipline. Course will prepare student for work in advanced topics of organic chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering and health related sciences.

Prerequisites: One year of General Chemistry or instructor permission.

Basis for grades: Grades will be based on the best two midterms out of three and the final exam. Weekly problem sets will be assigned and discussed during recitation. They are essential practice but they will not count towards your grade in the class.

• Best two of three midterms (30% each)
• Final exam (40%)

Grading policy: While exact cutoffs will vary from year to year, the top 15% of the class will be guaranteed an A or A– grade, the next 25% will be guaranteed a B+/B/B– grade, and the next 35% after that will be guaranteed a C+/C/C– grade.


Exams: The midterm exams will take place during a 50-minute period on a Wednesday. The midterm exams will be tentatively scheduled for September 21, October 19, and November 16, starting at 6:00 PM. Make up exams will not be offered (enforced rigorously). While each midterm examination will focus on the new course material introduced after the previous midterm, organic chemistry is cumulative, so you are still responsible for retaining earlier knowledge, including facts and concepts from General Chemistry. You will be held accountable for all the material introduced up to the Wednesday before each midterm. The final exam will take place at the time scheduled by the registrar. The 110-minute final exam will be cumulative.

Exam regrades: Exam regrading is available if you believe a serious grading error was made, to your detriment. Regrading requests should be made in person during office hours within one week after the exam is returned. To make exam scores fairer to students who do not request a regrade, all problems (not just the one that you feel was graded incorrectly) will be re-examined for grading errors.

Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys: Students in this class will be asked to complete a Student Opinion of Teaching Survey by the Office of Measurement & Evaluation of Teaching (OMET). Surveys will be sent
via Pitt email and appear on your CourseWeb landing page during the last three weeks of class meeting days. Your responses are anonymous. Please take time to provide comments, suggestions, and criticisms for any aspect of the course, including format, content, policies, and overall effectiveness.

**University Policies on Academic Integrity:** 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 will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University’s Guidelines on Academic Integrity (provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf). In particular, please take note of the following University statement on academic integrity:

*Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed.*

— Academic Integrity Statement for Syllabi

**University Policies on 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, www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/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. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** 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, visit the Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance webpage (https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be filed online (https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/make-report/report-form). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

Organic chemistry is a challenging subject and challenging course, and learning outcomes are better when students help each other learn. Thus, I also ask that you work to foster a supportive and inclusive environment that welcomes students of all backgrounds when you form study groups outside of class.
Course schedule & outline (subject to change; check Canvas for announcements):

Page numbers for assigned readings will be announced at the beginning of lecture and posted on Canvas. You will be held responsible for the information contained within the assigned pages and any handouts that are posted in the Course Documents section of Canvas.

Week 1: Bonding, structure, and reactivity (Chapters 1 and 2)
Week 2: Reactions of alkanes (Chapter 3)
Week 3: Cycloalkanes (Chapter 4)
Week 4: Stereochemistry (Chapter 5)

Midterm exam 1: September 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Week 5: Stereochemistry (ctd.) (Chapter 5)
Week 6-7: Haloalkanes (Chapters 6 and 7)
Week 8: Alcohols (Chapter 8)

Midterm exam 2: October 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Week 9: Alcohols and ethers (Chapters 8 and 9)
Week 10: NMR spectroscopy (Chapter 10)
Week 11-12: Alkenes (Chapter 11)

Midterm exam 3: November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Thanksgiving break: November 20-27, 2022

Week 13: Alkenes (ctd.) (Chapters 11 and 12)
Week 13-14: Alkynes (Chapter 13)

Final exam: TBD