

Spring 2026, Chem 3320 section 03: Organic Chemistry 2
M-W-F 9:55–10:45 am

Instructor: Brett VanVeller (3126 Hach Hall) email: bvv@iastate.edu (please put 3320 in subject line)

Office hours: 3126 Hach Hall, after class 10:45-11:00 AM or by appointment.

Email policy: Organic chemistry is a visual/pictographic science. Snapping a pic of your problem/answer and sending it along can make all the difference in resolving your questions. Also please make use of Help Center and Office Hours.

Textbook: *Organic Chemistry: Principles and Mechanisms Nth Edition* by Joel Karty (e-book editions are available). The text is a *support* tool. “The course” is what we cover in class. Consider buying a molecular models kit if you have difficulty visualizing in 3-dimensions.
FREE RESOURCE: <http://www.masterorganicchemistry.com>

A large amount of material will be covered in this course. Because the concepts in this course build on themselves, it is extremely important that you keep up. If you fall behind, it is very challenging to catch up. All videos and worksheets are posted to assist you.

Class Structure: In my opinion, solving problems is the most effective way to learn and test your understanding of organic chemistry. For this reason, the class is structured in the following manner:

1. Watch a 15 min video before coming to class and complete the post-video Quick Sheet.
2. In-class: Working in groups of 3-5, complete a problem set to test your understanding.
3. **In-Class Participation:** One student will be selected at random to present and explain their group’s solution to one of the problems. Please write out your answer on a piece of paper ahead of time so you can use the video projector. Your grade is not determined by whether your answer is correct but, clarity, neatness, evidence of thought and effort put into your answer will all be considered in assigning your participation grade.

February 2–9: I will be away. Instructor Aaron Donovan will be filling in.

Grades: The course grade will be based on the three best 100 pt midterm scores, the 200 pt cumulative final exam, 100 pts from online homework, and 50 points based on your in-class participation (max total = 650 pts). The lowest score on one of the four 100-point exams will be automatically dropped. You are guaranteed the following grades: >85% A-, > 75% B-, > 65% C-. Plus-minus grading will be used. Canvas will be used to post grades.

See Canvas modules for important dates regarding exams and homework

Exams: There will be four mid-term exams and a comprehensive final exam. All midterm exams will be given in class (see Canvas for dates). Any re-grades on an exam must be requested (after class or in office hours) within one week after they are returned. Time and location of final exam TBD.

I will accommodate exam absences, but you must speak with me—preferably 1 week before the exam. Cheating on an exam will earn a zero for that exam, *which cannot be dropped*.

Homework: We will use an on-line homework system called Smartwork. You need to buy an access code and create a student account. A registration guideline is posted in Canvas. Regularly check the

Smartwork website for homework due dates. If there is any change in the due date, it will be announced via Canvas announcement or in class. Your percentage of points earned for the online homework over the semester will be scaled to a final total of 100 points (e.g. earning 90% of the homework points for the semester will give you 90/100 homework points in determining your final grade). You will have unlimited time and chances to get the problems right. Thus, as long as you eventually get the answer correct you should be able to earn all of these points.

Study habits and tips

- 1) Practice each mechanism covered. Be creative with your starting materials.
- 2) Create reaction webs.
- 3) Then tackle some practice problems.

Do not consider *reading* over notes/slides/problem set solutions as an effective study method. If you aren't actively drawing structures and solving problems, you aren't studying.

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring accommodations in this course, make arrangements with me **as soon as possible**. Please request that a Disability Resources staff member prepare a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the necessary accommodations. Disability Resources is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building in room 1076. Their phone number is 4-7220.