

# Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I

## Fall 2026

**Instructor:** Timothy D. Cook, Ph.D.

**Email:** [tdcook@brynmawr.edu](mailto:tdcook@brynmawr.edu)

**Office:** Park 169

**Time:** *Lecture:* MWF, 10:10 am – 11:00 am; *Recitation:* F 1:10 – 2:00 pm

**Room:** Park 25 (lecture); Park 278 (recitation)

**Office Hours:** M 1:30pm – 3:00pm

(in Park 169) W 11:00am – 12:00pm

or by appointment (email me)

**Textbook:** David Klein, *Organic Chemistry* (4<sup>th</sup> edition), ISBN-13: 978-1-119-65959-4

### Strongly Recommended Materials:

- Organic Chemistry Study Guide and Solutions Manual (Klein), ISBN: 978-1119659587 (4<sup>th</sup> ed)
  - o Several copies are available at the Reference Desk in Collier Library.
- Organic Chemistry as a Second Language: First Semester Topics (Klein)
- Organic Chemistry Molecular Model Kit  
(I like this one:  
<https://www.darlingmodels.com/kit-3-isbn-978-09648837-4-1-molecular-visions-organic-kit#>  
but feel free to shop around)
  - o Model kit may be used during quizzes and exams!
- Clutch prep organic: <https://www.clutchprep.com/organic>

### Learning Goals:

- Develop a knowledge base of organic chemistry structure and reactivity, with applications towards higher order thinking practices
- Develop and expand on critical thinking skills, particularly in mechanistic and synthetic problem solving.

### Office Hours:

Organic Chemistry is a challenging course, and I am here to help you master it! My office hours are designated times that I have set aside **solely to answer student questions about THIS course. You will NEVER be interrupting or bothering me** by coming to my office hours. Please come by with any and all questions. Office hours will tentatively meet in my office (unless regular attendance is large enough to necessitate a larger space). I am also happy to meet by appointment, as necessary.

## Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I

### Fall 2026

I love questions and will frequently solicit them during lecture and recitation. Lingering questions you have from lecture are a great reason to come to office hours. Help on homework problems (i.e., you can't figure out why the solutions manual answer is different from yours, or don't know how to begin to approach a problem) is another great reason to come see me. Use this resource early and often!

#### Resources for Mastery:

- Your instructor! In addition to Office Hours, I encourage you to ask me questions at any time, in or outside of class. I am passionate about helping you succeed in what is traditionally an intimidating and stressful course. Please **email me with questions any time** and I will do my best to respond as soon as I can. I am happy to schedule meetings outside of office hours as needed.

I strive to create a classroom community where *every* student feels included, that they belong, and that they can contribute and succeed. There are always ways I can improve my teaching and the classroom experience, and your feedback is crucial. Please talk to me or a TA if there is ever anything I can do to make this class more accessible, inclusive, or engaging for you!

- Homework. Practice makes permanent. **There is no substitute for practice** in this course. Homework will not be collected or graded, but it is essential for your success in this course. I recommend reading over your notes and the textbook, and then attempting problems one-at-a-time. Before moving on, check your answer in the solutions manual, and you will typically either:
  - A) have the correct answer.
  - B) have the incorrect answer, and understand your mistake.
  - C) have the incorrect answer, and not understand your mistake, or not understand the solution whatsoever.

Scenario C) means you should find help! Come to office hours, email me, go to TA hours, talk to a classmate, etc. Take action to close this gap in your understanding. This is especially crucial early in the course for foundational topics that will consistently appear throughout both semesters.

If you can't figure out how to begin to approach a problem, you should likewise find help!

If you understand the homework problems, you shouldn't find any surprises on a quiz or exam.

- There are no shortcuts. You should expect to spend 6-10 hours a week outside of class and lab working on chemistry to master the material.
- The best way to learn how to solve chemistry problems is to consistently work lots and lots of chemistry problems!!!

## Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I

### Fall 2026

Several copies of the Solutions Manual are available at the Reference Desk in Collier Library.

- The Textbook. The textbook, and its companion “Organic Chemistry as a Second Language,” are painstakingly written to be helpful and palatable presentations of the topics to students. I urge you to use the textbook as more than just a repository of practice problems. Even taking 5-10 minutes to briefly skim the assigned reading can make a huge difference in learning and retention versus encountering the material for the first-time during lecture. Get your \$ worth from the text!
- Lecture. Lecture is an opportunity to interactively engage with a presentation of the material. I will do my best to present in a way that supplements the textbook rather than restating the same ideas in the same format. I will also provide insight into MCAT structure, style, chemistry content, and strategy when possible. To get the most out of lecture, you should **read the assigned text section before class. Even taking 5 minutes to skim the text can make a huge difference!**

You should also take notes and ask questions frequently. Lecture PowerPoint files will be posted to Moodle before class to facilitate notetaking. I will post my annotated lecture notes to Moodle after class. These should be used as supplements, **not replacements for attending lecture.**

- Moodle. Moodle will be used for announcements, grade-keeping, and as a repository for course resources. In addition to lecture notes and recordings, I will occasionally post additional materials such as practice exams and quizzes (with keys), etc. Check Moodle and your email daily for communications about this course.
- Recitation. Recitation will meet each week on Friday afternoon, unless there is an exam that week.
  - I will post the recitation sheet on Moodle prior to recitation each week. Recitation keys will be posted as well. Use them responsibly...
  - I will go over any requested problems from the homework and/or recitation for the first 20-30 minutes of recitation. You may also review quietly on your own during this time.
  - We will have a 10-15 minute weekly quiz toward the end of recitation.
  - Recitation sheets, as with homework problems, are not submitted or graded in any way. Think of the weekly quiz as your recitation/homework grade.
- Your TA. We are lucky to have a TA to support your learning in this course as well! More information will follow regarding TA support sessions and availability.

## Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I

### Fall 2026

#### Assessment:

- Quizzes: Over the course of the semester, you will have 7 quizzes as noted on the course calendar. These will be 10-15 minutes long and given during the recitation period each Friday. These quizzes are designed to encourage you to stay current with the material, and to help you evaluate your understanding as the exam approaches. The first quiz is a great way to gauge the success of your study/homework habits and strategy in this class. Do not get behind on the homework and make sure to ask lots of questions in and outside of class!
  - You are allowed to use Model Kits on quizzes.
  - Your 6 best quizzes will be averaged to get a score out of 50 points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
- \*\*Unexcused missed quizzes may not be made up or rescheduled. \*\***
  - If you play a sport and know you will miss class due to a college athletic competition that you are participating in, you must schedule this with me ASAP early in the semester.
  - If you start feeling ill the morning of a quiz, or must miss for any other day-of reason, that will count as your dropped quiz. If you provide advance notice of an illness or exceptional circumstance **at least one day before** the quiz, you *may* be allowed to make it up the following Monday morning, at the instructor's discretion.
- In-Class Exams: Four (4) in-class exams will be given on the dates indicated in the course calendar document. Exams will be closed-book and closed-notes; however, a practice test will be uploaded to Moodle the week before the exam. You are allowed to use Model Kits on exams. Exams will be given during the 1-hour lecture period, and recitation will not meet during those weeks. Each exam is worth 75 points.
- Final Exam: A 3-hour time slot for the final exam will be established during the final exam period. More information on this as we get closer to the end of the semester. The final exam is worth 150 points.
- Midterm Exam Redemption: If your % score on the Final Exam is higher than your lowest midterm exam grade, your final exam grade will replace that midterm exam (scaled to 75 points).

## Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I

### Fall 2026

#### Course Grading:

- Lecture Grade: Your grade for the lecture portion of this course will be assigned through the following point system:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Exams:           | 300 Points        |
| Avg of 6 Quizzes:  | 50 Points         |
| <u>Final Exam:</u> | <u>150 Points</u> |
| Total:             | 500 Points        |

Your final exam score (out of 75) will replace your lowest midterm exam score (if applicable).

- Laboratory Grade: Unlike General Chemistry at Bryn Mawr, your lab grade is separate from your lecture grade, and you will receive independent final grades for lecture and lab on your transcript at the end of the semester. Please reach out to me if you would like further clarification about this.

#### *Approximate Grading Scheme:*

|                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 93 – 100% 4.0 (A) | 80 – 82% 2.7 (B-) | 60 – 64% 1.3 (D+) |
| 90 – 92% 3.7 (A-) | 76 – 79% 2.3 (C+) | 55 – 59% 1.0 (D)  |
| 87 – 89% 3.3 (B+) | 70 – 75% 2.0 (C)  |                   |
| 83 – 86% 3.0 (B)  | 65 – 69% 1.7 (C-) |                   |

I reserve the right to adjust this grading scale when I consider it necessary. Grade cutoffs will not increase. (i.e. the cutoff for an A might go down to 92, but will not go up to 94)

#### Missed Assignments / Illness:

If you have a medical or family emergency that prevents you from taking a quiz or exam, ***you need to notify me as soon as possible***. I will work with you to arrange an alternative time for you to take this quiz or exam. **All missed quizzes/exams MUST be made up by the following Monday** to ensure equity for your classmates.

Known schedule conflicts, such as travel for an athletic competition, should be communicated ASAP so we can coordinate makeup quizzes/exams as needed.

If it is not possible to make up the quiz/exam within a reasonable timeframe and sufficient documentation is provided, then you may be excused from the assignment (only under extreme circumstance, at my discretion). The points for that assignment will not be included in your grade calculation.

## Chem 211: Organic Chemistry I Fall 2026

**Your first missed quiz (outside of circumstances outlined in the Assessments section) will be counted as your dropped lowest quiz grade.**

### AI Policy:

Absolutely no use of AI is allowed for this course. Using AI to solve homework problems runs completely counter to the goals of this course. If you are stuck, email me, come to office hours or TA hours or the tutoring center...etc! **The homework is crucial practice and preparation for assessments; do not deprive yourself of it by copying another's work, human or otherwise!**

Problem-solving and productive "struggling" with concepts is exercise for your brain. You would not have a robot lift weights for you in the gym and expect yourself to grow physically stronger. Do let not AI rob you of strengthening your brain!

**I will also abide by this policy.** At no point in this course will AI be used to generate any lecture materials, practice problems, assessments, or communications; nor will it play any role in grading.

### Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty in the classroom is a matter of equity for all students in this course, and for all past and future students whose degrees bear this institution's name. Any act of cheating prevents this course from operating fairly. Therefore, any instances of cheating on a quiz or an exam will result in an automatic reduction to 0% for that assignment. This 0% cannot be replaced or mitigated in any way. All instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the honor board without exceptions.

### Access and Accommodations:

Bryn Mawr College is committed to providing equal access to students with a documented disability. Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Access Services. Students can call 610-526-7516 to make an appointment with the Director of Access Services, Joanna Timmerman, or email at [jtimmerman@brynmawr.edu](mailto:jtimmerman@brynmawr.edu) to begin this confidential process. Once registered, students should schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible to share the verification form and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. More information can be obtained at the Access Services website. (<http://www.brynmawr.edu/access-services/>)

Any student who has a disability-related need to record this class first must speak with the Director of Access Services and to me, the instructor. No accommodations can be implemented by the course instructor without a letter from Access Services.