Chemistry 541
Organic Structure and Reactivity
Spring 2015

Instructor

Dr. Kyle Plunkett
Office: Neckers 315
Phone: 618-453-2758
E-mail: kplunkett@chem.siu.edu

Office Hours: open to appointment or drop by my office

Required Text and Materials:

Course Description

Chem 541 is a detailed introduction to the theory and principles of organic chemistry. Specific emphasis will be placed on bonding and structure, stereochemistry, reactive intermediates, transition state theory, kinetics and thermodynamics.

Exams

Two midterm exams and one final exam (not comprehensive) will be given during this semester. Makeup examinations will be given only for University-excused absences provided the appropriate documentation is provided within an adequate timeframe (no later than the end of the next working day after a missed exam).

Exam 1: Wednesday, Feb. 25
Exam 2: Wednesday, Apr 1
Final Exam: Monday, May 11 (12:30-2:30 PM)

Grading

Exam 1 (100 pts), Exam 2 (100 pts), Final (100 pts), Problem Sets (100 pts)

Problem sets: The scores of the problem sets (~5 total) will be averaged for a maximum of 100 pts.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
A 90 – 100%; B 80 – 89%; C 70 – 79%; D 60 – 69%; F 0 – 59%

I may lower, but will not raise the percentage required for a letter grade (i.e., curve). Please note that the university policy regarding incompletes states: An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. In other words, **under no circumstances, will an INC be given to a failing student to prevent him or her from receiving an F.** Please be advised that the deadline for dropping this course is Sunday, October 17, 2010.
Tardiness/Attendance

Although I will not be taking attendance, it is highly recommended that you attend class regularly. I will provide useful information pertaining to the upcoming tests that will not be available by reading alone. I will also be providing the reading assignments, suggested problems from the text, and due dates for the problem sets. Disruptive behavior, such as late arrival or early departure, talking, or cell phone usage will not be tolerated.

Other

Cellular phones must be turned off and/or in vibrate mode. If you must take an emergency call, please leave the room and do so quietly. Habitual interruptions will not be tolerated.

Emergency Procedures

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

I will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting our location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay together during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Course Content

In general, we will be covering Chapters 1-9 in “March’s” textbook and supplementing it with problems and text from “Carey and Sundberg”. I may also provide literature articles or photocopies of other concepts during the course.