

Professor Barry Snider EL 225, 781-736-2550, snider@brandeis.edu (only text or PDF attachments)

Office hours M 2-3, W 4-5, Th 4-5, F 2-3

Texts: (1) Vollhardt and Schore, Organic Chemistry, Structure and Function **5th Edition 2006**, ISBN 0-7167-9949-9

(2) Schore, Study Guide and Solution Manual for Organic Chemistry, Structure and Function, **5th Edition 2006**, ISBN 0-7167-6172-6

(3) Molecular model kit. The bookstore has an inexpensive and good one (see below ISBN0-7167-4822-3), but any will do.

The Bookstore is selling items 1, 2, and 3 only as a bundled package because the publisher sells it more cheaply this way. The price to the book store for the three items above and the E-book (ISBN0-7167-7528-X) is \$58 less than the three sold separately.

The E-book is an option that allows you to access your text from the web, so that you can study when you travel without carrying the book with you. The E-book option added very little to the price. Try it and see if it works for you.

Earlier editions of Vollhardt and Schore have minor differences in most chapters, but the problems are numbered slightly differently, which will cause problems with homework assignments. Chapters 11 and 13 are quite different from the older edition, so that use of the 5th edition is strongly recommended.

Material to be covered: Chemistry 25a will cover chapters 1 (Chemical Bonding), 2 (Alkanes), 3 (Reactions of Alkanes), 4 (Cycloalkanes), 5 (Stereoisomers), 6 (Haloalkanes), 7 (Elimination), 8 (Alcohols), 9 (Ethers), 11 (Alkenes), 12 (More Alkenes), and 13 (Alkynes). NMR spectroscopy (Chapter 10) will be covered in Chemistry 29b. Chemistry 25b will cover most of the rest of the book.

Course time: (1) Gerstenzang 123 MWTh from 11:10 to 12:00. (2) An additional recitation is scheduled for Tuesday from 6:40 to 8:00 p.m. in G123. There will be quizzes most weeks at the end of the recitation section. The review part of recitations is optional although I may cover new material, but the quizzes are required and will count toward your grade. **Therefore you should make sure that you have no conflicts with the Tuesday evening section**

Exams: The hour exams will be held from 6:40-8:40 p.m. on Tuesdays October 2nd, October 30th, and November 27th. The exams will be written so that they can be completed in one hour, but you will have two hours to remove time pressure. **There are no makeups for hour exams.** If you have a documented medical excuse you will receive the average of your grades on the other two exams and final. If you are absent for any other reason, you will receive a 0. **The final exam will be held at the time scheduled by the registrar for Block D.** Please make your travel plans according. You may not use calculators during exams, but may use your models kit.

Homework: Read the chapter as we cover it. Do as many of the problems in each chapter as possible and all the assigned ones. Answers to all of them are in the study guide. Doing problems is the best way to study organic chemistry. Quizzes will be based on assigned problems in the book.

WebCT: Copies of the syllabus, handouts, and quiz answers will be placed on WebCT or the equivalent that is used in the fall of 2006. The 2003-2006 folders for this course have previous material including exams you can use for practice. Your grades will also be accessible to you on WebCT. The science library has the text on reserve.

Software: The University has a site license to ChemOffice Ultra that will allow you to download the complete version of ChemOffice, which will be useful for Chemistry, Biochemistry and possibly Biology as well. This software allows you to draw and paste chemical structures into a MS word document and will be useful for Chem 29a lab reports. The version you download will be good until Sept 2008, and you will probably be able to renew the license until you graduate. Details of how to get your copy can be found at: <http://people.brandeis.edu/~kunz/TechTips/ChemOffice.html>

Prerequisites: You should be aware that a satisfactory grade (C- or better) in Chem 10b, 11b or 15b or the equivalent is a prerequisite for Chem 25a. **If you have not completed the prerequisites you will be administratively disenrolled.**

Freshman in Chem 25a: You are also eligible for Chem 25a if you received a 4 or 5 on the advanced placement chemistry test or completed the International Baccalaureate at the appropriate level. If you fall into this category, please see me as soon as possible to discuss whether Chem 25a is right for you. In 2003 and 2004, freshmen with AP/IB did better than the class average. In 2005, freshmen with AP/IB did worse than the class average. Your success in organic chemistry as a freshman will be determined by your adjustment to college and your ability to keep up with the pace in college, which is much faster than in high school. Your prior mastery of AP chemistry is much less important because organic chemistry is so different from general chemistry.

Grading: The semester grade will be based on hour exams (3×100 points), final exam (200 points), and quizzes (10 points each, 5-8 quizzes) for a total of 550-580 points. My goal is to have the average grades on exams between 65 and 70. **There is no connection between these numbers and letter grades.** The high school approach $90 = A$, $80 = B$, etc, precludes challenging questions, overly penalizes careless mistakes, and leads to letter grades that differ much more than test grades do. My goal is to spread the class out so that the letter grades (given out only at the end of the semester) correspond to very different number totals.

The course is curved, but only in one direction that is to your benefit. If you all do well, you will all get A's and B's. In the unlikely event that you all do poorly, the course will be curved upwards so the class average is between a B- and a B.

Tutoring: This year we will be offering drop-in tutoring in Gerstenzang 19 run by juniors and seniors on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 to 11 PM. Details will be announced when available.

Regrading of Exams. Graders (both TA's and Professors) do make mistakes in grading and we will happily regrade exam problems. However, please be advised that during regrades, scores may go down as well as up!

If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively. The usual accommodation (50% extra time) will be dealt with by starting the exam at 5:40 PM, not 6:40 PM.

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The exams are to be taken without access to notes, calculators, text or reports and without assistance from another student. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the *Rights and Responsibilities* handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.