

Dr. Timothy Snowden

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Course Website: <http://www.bama.ua.edu/%7Esnowden/index.htm>

Class Times: TTh 9:30 AM to 10:50 AM; T 6:30 PM to 7:50 PM as directed (tests, review sessions, make-up lectures)

All class discussions and tests will be held in *Shelby 151* unless specified otherwise.

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00 PM or by appointment (Shelby 218).

Objectives: This course is designed to introduce the fundamental concepts of organic chemistry including organic molecular structure and stability; stereochemistry; mechanistic formalisms; reactivity of alkynes, alkenes, and alkanes; substitution vs. elimination reactions; and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Expectations (Student Learning Outcomes):

After successfully completing CH 231 students will be able to:

1. predict relative stability of simple molecules based upon resonance theory and substitution
2. understand and describe conformational and configurational isomerism of simple molecules
3. accurately draw electron-pushing mechanisms for several classes of reactions (e.g., additions, substitutions, eliminations)
4. predict the correct reaction products of common organic reactions
5. interpret simple NMR spectra to identify organic compounds

Required Items:

- John McMurry *Organic Chemistry*, 7th ed.; Brooks/Cole-Thomson: Belmont, 2008 w/OWL access code.

Optional Materials:

- Susan McMurry *Study Guide and Student Solutions Manual for Organic Chemistry*, 7th ed.; Brooks/Cole-Thomson: Belmont, 2008.
- Molecular models kit (kit may be used during tests)

Attendance Policy: Class roll will not be taken. However, you *must* attend class to do well in the course. Class discussions are not necessarily derived completely from the content provided in the McMurry textbook. Moreover, you cannot earn bonus points on quizzes if you are not in class!

Disability Accommodations: Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 348-4285, and then see me at your earliest convenience.

Please, no cell phones and newspapers in class and no electronic devices of any type during exams

UA Honor Code:

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline.

Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

Any act of dishonesty in your work will automatically be considered academic misconduct and be subject to *The University of Alabama Academic Conduct Disciplinary Policy*.

Grade Policy:

4 Semester Tests -- 400 pts (55%)

Comprehensive Final Exam -- 165 pts (23%)

OWL Homework Assignments & Class Quizzes (?) – 160 pts (22%)

The Final Exam percentage score will replace the lowest test score if this improves the student's cumulative point total.

Cumulative scores within the % ranges below will be **guaranteed** the indicated grade. The instructor reserves the right to *expand* these ranges (apply a curve) *at the end of the semester* based upon class performance and exam difficulty. However, do not rely on a curve, because there is *no guarantee* that one need be applied at the end of the course.

- A 88-100
- B 75-87
- C 62-74
- D 50-61
- F 00-49

All exams and bonus quizzes will be graded by the instructor *and* organic graduate teaching assistants. Partial credit may be assigned for partially correct exam answers, at the instructor's discretion. Partial credit will not be assigned for OWL homework exercises or quizzes.

Bonus Point Opportunities:

- Simple, unannounced bonus quizzes will be given in class or during recitation sessions. Quizzes will reward those who routinely attend class and arrive prepared. No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason.

Missed Test Policy: There will be **no** make-up semester tests, except for individuals providing evidence for participation in a University of Alabama sanctioned event during the scheduled exam time (fraternity/sorority events excluded...). In such instances, *arrangements must be made to take the test prior* to the scheduled test date or time. If a semester test is missed for any other reason (e.g., personal or medical issues), the student's percentage score earned on the Final Exam will replace the single missed semester test score. No (0) points will be awarded for any tests subsequently missed.

Keys to Success: You must keep up with the lecture notes, reading assignments, OWL homework, and recommended textbook problems to do well in this course. Most students find organic chemistry to be challenging, and you will not do well by "cramming" for exams. Topics are intimately related, so you must *understand* what was taught yesterday to comprehend what is covered today.

Helpful Hints:

- **Read the text.** The text will generally reinforce concepts introduced in class and potentially offer expanded coverage or biological applications of the topics.
- **Complete the assigned pre-class OWL exercises.** This will require that you be familiar with lecture topics *before* coming to class. Familiarizing yourself with the fundamental topics will allow you to focus on the details or specific applications discussed during class. Be sure to read and follow the exercise directions *carefully*.
- **Complete the OWL End of Chapter Questions.** These questions are similar in style and content to the textbook problems. The exercises will reinforce the material for which you are responsible, highlight areas requiring further study, and comprise the bulk of your homework grade.
- **Work the recommended problem sets.** The recommended problems force you to review and understand the material. Despite the effort involved, this is *the* best way to learn organic chemistry! Plus, *up to 50%* of exam questions *will come directly from these problems!* Attempt the problems before seeking the answers in the Solutions Manual. It will not help to view solutions without first attempting to solve the problems on your own.
- **Attend recitation sessions.** Useful hints or tips will be given and more complicated examples of problems will be worked than those shown in class. Chapter reviews and bonus point opportunities *may* also be given here.
- **Ask questions and attend office hours.** If you don't want to ask during class, wait until afterward. I enjoy answering questions, and it allows me to gauge how well the material was taught and understood.
- **Recopy the class notes and/or make mechanism and reaction cards.** This can be a very effective way to review. Just be sure you understand what you are copying, and how it applies to the subject matter. If you don't understand, visit me during office hours.

As much as I would like to see everyone succeed, what you gain from CH 231 depends upon *your* commitment to attend class and recitation, routinely study, and understand the assigned exercises. My role is to facilitate, encourage, and guide.