

General Course Information

CHEM 337 Organic Synthesis

0.125 EFTS 15 Points
Second Semester 2022

Description

This course is about the reactivity of organic molecules, and how this reactivity is used in the synthesis of important and interesting compounds. The topics covered by this course are:

- modern synthetic transformations, particularly focusing on the organic chemistry of B, Si, P and S
- applications of highly reactive intermediates in synthesis
- neighbouring group participation and rearrangement reactions
- stereochemistry in organic chemistry; how stereochemistry affects and controls reactivity, and how stereogenic centres may be constructed selectively

Timetable

Lectures: Two hours of lectures per week. Details to be confirmed on 'My Timetable' and the Web.

Tutorials: One hour of tutorials per week. Details to be confirmed on 'My Timetable' and the Web.

Students should note that in the Science Faculty that the average student is responsible for approximately 4.5 hours of additional study for each hour of lecture at the 300-level.

Course Coordinator

Professor Antony Fairbanks

email: antony.fairbanks@canterbury.ac.nz

Assessment

Test 1:	20%
Test 2:	20%
End of course examination:	60%

Examination and Formal Tests

Term 3 test: 90 Minutes, with questions from Antony Fairbanks. Time: 18.30. Date: Tuesday 16th August

Term 4 test: 90 Minutes, with questions from Daniel Foley. Time: 18.30. Date: Tuesday 11th October

End of year Exam: Three hours, with questions from Antony Fairbanks and Daniel Foley.

Textbooks

Organic Chemistry, Clayden, Greeves, Wothers and Warren, Oxford University Press, 2001 is the preferred general textbook for the course. Copies are available on reserve in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Library

Other more specialised textbooks that will also be useful for the course are as follows:

S.E. Thomas, 'Organic Synthesis: The Roles of Boron and Silicon', Oxford Chemistry Primer No. 1, Oxford University Press, 1991.

G. Whitham, 'Organosulfur Chemistry', Oxford Chemistry Primer No. 33, Oxford University Press, 1995.

C.J. Moody and G.H. Whitham, 'Reactive Intermediates', Oxford Primer No. 8., Oxford University Press, 1992.

L. Harwood, 'Polar Rearrangements', Oxford Chemistry Primer No. 5, Oxford University Press, 1995.

G. Proctor, 'Stereoselectivity in Organic Synthesis', Oxford Chemistry Primer No. 63, Oxford University Press, 1998.

Prerequisites

P: 30 points from [CHEM212](#) or [CHEM242](#) or [BCHM212](#) or [BCHM206](#).

R: CHEM322

Molecular Models

To purchase approved safety glasses, lab coats or model kits go to:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/shop/>.

The collection point for purchases is inside the southern entry to the Ernest Rutherford Building, Monday to Friday between the hours 8.30 – 10.00 am and 1.30 – 3.00 pm for the first two weeks of the semester.

Web-based resources

Various learning resources (lecture material, reference links, quizzes, discussion forums etc.) for this course are available via the University of Canterbury's *Learn* web site -- <http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/>. This site will also be used regularly as a means of communication and information distribution for all of your Canterbury courses. You should familiarise yourself with *Learn* as soon as possible.

Goal of the Course

This course aims to develop a mechanistic (curly arrow) and stereochemical understanding of a range of synthetic transformations using the principles of Organic Chemistry. There is a particular focus on the application of synthetic chemistry for the multi-step synthesis of complex organic molecules which contain multiple functional groups, together with several stereogenic centres and/or aromatic/heterocyclic rings.

Learning Outcomes

As a student in this course I will develop the ability to:

- Solve a variety of mechanistic problems in organic chemistry
- Give curly arrow mechanisms for many common synthetic processes, particularly those involving reagents that contain B, Si, S or P and/or involve high energy reactive intermediates
- Suggest reagents that may be used to achieve a particular selective transformation
- Explain the regio- and stereochemical outcomes of a range of synthetic reactions
- Predict the structure of a product that is formed when presented with a set of reagents
- Plan a reaction scheme for the synthesis of a molecule containing multiple functional groups using selective transformations
- Identify and mechanistically explain several different types of molecular rearrangement
- Rationalize a range of stereoselective processes by thinking in three dimensions
- Draw 2D diagrams that represent 3D reaction processes

Transferable Skill Register

As a student in this course I will develop the following skills:

- Problem solving. This is a key skill that is transferable to most careers.
- Pattern spotting and logical analysis. The key to Organic Chemistry is the ability to understand similarities between processes which allows enormous simplification / rationalisation. *This is a highly useful skill that allows the rationalisation of huge numbers of different reactions into a manageable and quite limited number of distinct processes.*
- Three-dimensional spatial awareness. The ability to think about molecules and chemical reactions in three dimensions is highly useful transferable skill.
- Presentation. A particularly important skill is being able to represent three dimensional situations in a two-dimensional format (i.e. on paper).

Summary of the Course Content

The topics covered by this course are:

MODERN SYNTHETIC TRANSFORMATIONS

(12 lectures + 6 tutorials)

This part of the course will include discussion of the synthetic organic chemistry of reagents containing boron, silicon, phosphorus and sulfur, with particular emphasis of the utility of these heteroatoms in modern synthetic processes. The course will also cover an introduction to the organic chemistry of free radicals and carbenes, again with emphasis on the utility of these reactive intermediates for selective synthetic transformations.

Lecturer: Professor Antony Fairbanks, antony.fairbanks@canterbury.ac.nz

NEIGHBOURING GROUP PARTICIPATION AND REARRANGEMENT REACTIONS

(4 lectures + 2 tutorials)

In many instances remote functional groups within a molecule can participate when reaction is initiated at another centre. In certain cases even sigma and pi bonds can also participate, something which may lead to a rearrangement reaction. This part of the course will examine the mechanistic basis and stereoelectronic requirements for these types of process, and their applications and utility in organic synthesis.

Lecturer: Dr Daniel Foley, daniel.foley@canterbury.ac.nz

DIASTEREOSELECTIVE SYNTHESIS

(8 lectures + 4 tutorials)

Developing synthetic strategies to enable the efficient construction of complex molecules whilst controlling the configuration of stereogenic centres is a key goal in organic synthesis. This part of the course will focus on a variety of synthetic transformations in which the stereochemical outcome of the reaction is controlled.

Lecturer: Dr Daniel Foley, daniel.foley@canterbury.ac.nz

GENERAL INFORMATION 2022

Policy on 'Dishonest Practice'

The University has strict guidelines regarding 'dishonest practice' and 'breach of instructions' in relation to the completion and submission of examinable material. In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit a department may choose to not mark such work (['Academic Integrity and Breach of Instruction Regulations'](#)).

The School of Physical and Chemical Sciences upholds this policy. It considers plagiarism, collusion, copying, and ghost writing to be unacceptable and dishonest practices:

- **Plagiarism** is the presentation of any material (text, data or figures, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- **Collusion** is the presentation of work performed in whole, or in part, in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed by the named author alone. This interpretation is not intended to discourage students from having discussions about how to approach an assigned task and incorporating general ideas that come from those discussions into their own individual submissions, but acknowledgement is necessary.
- **Copying** is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person or persons with or without their knowledge and approval. **This includes copying of the lab reports (raw data may be shared within the group if permitted or required by the experiment) - data analysis and interpretation of obtained results MUST be performed individually.**
- **Ghost writing** is the use of other person(s) (with, or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item of work submitted for assessment.

Additional Information

Special consideration of assessment: If you feel that illness, injury, bereavement or any other critical extenuating circumstance beyond your control has prevented you from completing an item of assessment or affected your performance in that assessment, you may apply for special consideration. Special consideration is not available for items worth less than 10% of the course. Applications for special consideration should be made **within five days** of the due date for the work or examination. In the case of illness or injury, medical consultation should normally have taken place shortly before, or within 24 hours after, the due date for the required work or the date of the test or examination. For details on special consideration, or to make an application, refer to the Examinations Office website <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/exams/>. **You have the right to appeal any decision.**

Extensions of deadlines: Where an extension may be granted for an assessment item, this will be decided by application to the course co-ordinator.

Late withdrawal from the course: If you are prevented by extenuating circumstances from completing the course after the final date for withdrawing from the course, you may apply for special consideration for late discontinuation. For details on special consideration, or to make an application, refer to the Examinations Office website <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/exams/>. Applications must be submitted **within five days** of the end of the main examination period for the semester.

Missing of tests: In rare cases a student will not be able to sit a test. In such cases, the student should consult with the course co-ordinator to arrange alternative procedures. **This must be done well in advance of the set date for the test.**

Past tests and exams: these can be found on our website using the link below:
www.chem.canterbury.ac.nz/for/undergraduate.shtml

Submission of reports and assignments: Reports (including lab reports) and assignments should be handed in on time. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances (such as illness or bereavement). If an extension is required, as early as possible you should request it from the lecturer concerned.

Note: If you do not submit an assignment for assessment, you will be allotted zero marks, which will affect your final result. You should ensure that you pick up marked assignments and keep them until the end of the course as evidence that the work was completed and marked in the case that either is disputed. To guard against accidental loss, it would be prudent to keep photocopies or electronic copies of anything submitted.

Late Work: Acceptance of late work will be at the discretion of the course coordinator. Please contact the coordinator if your assessment is likely to be late.

Marks and Grades: The following numbers should be considered as a guide to the expected grades under normal circumstances. The School reserves the right to adjust mark/grade conversions, if necessary.

Please note that for all invigilated assessments (tests and exams) worth 33% and above, failure to obtain a mark of at least 40% will result in a final grade no higher than an R at 100 and 200 level, and a C- at 300 level.

Grade:	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	E
Minimum mark %:	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	40	0

Reconsideration of Grades: Students should, in the first instance, speak to the course co-ordinator about their marks. If they cannot reach an agreeable solution, or have questions about their grade in a course, students should then speak to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, [Assoc Prof Greg Russell](#) (phone 3694228). Students can appeal any decision made on their final grade. You can apply at the Registry for reconsideration of the final grade within four weeks of the date of publication of final results. Be aware that there are time limits for each step of the appeals process.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities should speak with someone at [Equity and Disability Service](#), phone: 369 3334 (or ext. 93334), email: eds@canterbury.ac.nz.

Academic Advice: [Assoc Prof Greg Russell](#) is the coordinator of undergraduate chemistry courses. His interest is in the academic performance and well-being of all such students. Anyone experiencing problems with their chemistry courses or requiring guidance about their B.Sc. in Chemistry should get in contact with Greg.

Staff-Class Rep Liaison: [Assoc Prof Greg Russell](#) is in charge of liaison with students in chemistry courses. Your class will appoint a student representative to the liaison committee at the start of the semester. Please feel free to talk to the Academic Liaison or the student rep about any problems or concerns that you might have.

Greg Russell (greg.russell@canterbury.ac.nz, tel. 369 5129)
Director of Undergraduate Studies
School of Physical and Chemical Sciences
2022