

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
Organic Chemistry I, CHM 3140 - Course Syllabus – Spring 2025

Meetings: TuTh 10:00–11:50 am 15-1823 Section 05, CRN 34848
TuTh 3:00–4:50 pm 15-1823 Section 02, CRN 30775
TuTh 5:00–6:50 pm 15-1823 Section 03, CRN 30776



QR code for
Monday office hours
Zoom ID [lsstarkey](#)

Instructor: Dr. Laurie S. Starkey Bldg. 4, Room 1-428
e-mail: lsstarkey@cpp.edu Google Voice: 714.855.1702
Homepage: <https://www.chemistryconnected.com/courses>

Office Hours:

Mon. (Zoom)	Tue. (4-1-428)	Thu. (4-1-428)
2 – 3:30 pm	1:30 – 2:45 pm	1:30 – 2:45 pm

My office hours on Monday will take place in my personal Zoom room: <https://cpp.zoom.us/my/lsstarkey>
I am on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays, so Tu/Th office hours will be f2f in my office, (on the first floor of Building 4, across the hall from the General Chemistry stockroom). I am also happy to make an appointment with you (or your study group) at a time that works for you, on campus or via Zoom. In addition to my scheduled office hours, I will provide review sessions before each exam, via Zoom.

How will we communicate?

Announcements will be made through Canvas, so please check your @cpp email regularly (or forward them to your preferred email). Course materials are available on my CHM 3140 homepage (<https://www.chemistryconnected.com/courses/CHM3140> or QR code), so please visit the website for worksheets/clicker questions, skeleton notes, handouts, links to videos, and to see sample exams. To reach me you can send an e-mail (lsstarkey@cpp.edu and please include “CHM 3140” in Subject) or you can send me a direct message @LaurieStarkey through Discord (<https://discord.gg/m84U5he>). The Discord server is the best place to post questions, and I hope it facilitates communication between you and me, and between students. When you send me a message (DM or email), I typically respond the same day, so feel free to reach out again if you haven’t heard from me. Discord questions may be answered more quickly by your peers!



QR code
CHM 3140
homepage

What will you learn in this course?

Organic chemistry is a fascinating subject! As humans, we interact with carbon-containing (organic) compounds all day every day...did you know that nearly everything you eat, taste and smell is an organic molecule? Other examples of organic compounds and materials include the vitamins and pharmaceuticals that keep us healthy, the personal care products that keep us looking good and feeling clean, the clothes we wear, the fuels that cook our food and make our cars go, everything we use that is made from plastic or with plastic components, the sports and recreational equipment that improves performance and keeps us safe, and so much more! As you progress through this course, I hope you will come to appreciate how organic chemistry is important to your major, career field, and quality of life. Together in this course, we will explore many types of organic compounds. We will learn how to draw them and name them and determine their 3-D structures. Ultimately, you will learn how to predict an organic molecule’s function and reactivity, based on its structure, and even design an organic synthesis!

How will this course be taught?

The only way to learn Organic Chemistry is to practice, practice, practice! Therefore, this course will utilize a “flipped classroom” model, where we use our time together working on organic chemistry problems. In order to prepare for these sessions, you will watch a video prior to class that introduces the

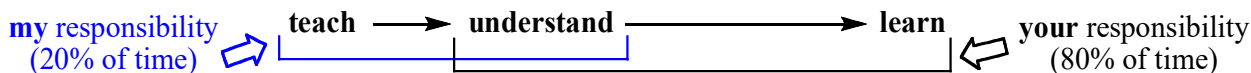
material we will be working with. All of my lectures are already, so the **course content lectures are ready when you are, for asynchronous delivery**. In Canvas, you can find a listing of the relevant videos to watch AND sections of the textbook to read, and you can work on these at any time that best fits your schedule. **Our face-to-face class meeting times will be used for problem-solving sessions**. These hands-on sessions will involve group work and “clicker” questions, and my goal is to record a screencast from my iPad as we work through problems. One recording from each day will be uploaded to YouTube, so those who are unable to attend can still watch the session and complete the worksheet. If you are unable to watch the required lecture before class, then the problem-solving session is probably not the best use of your time, and you can work with the recorded session instead. BUT...if you do not keep up with the work assigned each and every week, you cannot expect to pass the class. **I do not take attendance in class, but it will be highly beneficial to attend class and actively participate!** Engagement with the material – *especially with other human beings doing the same* – is critical to learning organic chemistry. Therefore, I will be doing everything possible to help you make those connections (during class and in study groups) to build a robust CHM 3140 community.

How will you learn to solve Organic Chemistry problems?

I have designed this course around your learning, and I will do everything I can to help you succeed! If you share in the commitment to doing well in this class, then you must commit to the items on the following “Work Required to Succeed” list. If you want to earn an A or B in this course, joining Organic Learning Community study group can further help you achieve your goal. I offer credit as incentive for the OLC because students have reported that they were extremely helpful, and I want to encourage you to give them a try.



QR code for
“[How to earn an A](#)”



breakdown of your time and our responsibilities

Work Required to Succeed in CHM 3140:

- **Flipped Classroom/Problem-Solving Sessions** – I will provide handouts of partial/skeleton notes for each chapter, and you can work through these during the video lectures. **The lecture must be watched BEFORE attending class**, as I will not be repeating the lecture material. Instead, we will jump directly into working on lots of problems together, using examples at various levels of difficulty. Come ready to be engaged every day!
- **Read the Book & Work on Textbook Problems** – Here is where you should be spending most of your time outside of class, ideally 1-2 hours *every day*! This is a fast-paced class so working a little bit every day means you won't fall behind – trying to “cram” study and memorize material is NOT a successful strategy for organic chemistry! Much like learning to play an instrument or a sport, mastery of Organic Chemistry develops over time, with time set aside for regularly, daily practice. Working textbook problems is the only way you can get practical experience and be prepared for exams. **Working on textbook problems accounts for 90 course points, and approximately 90% of exam questions are tied directly to the textbook problems!** The textbook has both in-chapter problems (SkillBuilders and Conceptual Checkpoints) as well as end-of-chapter (EOC) problems. **You do NOT have to do all the suggested problems in a given chapter, but students who do more textbook problems will have higher exam scores!** I suggest doing a little work on each of the SkillBuilders as you move through the chapter and then working on a sampling of EOC problems to prepare for the midterm. “Working on textbook problems” means doing the problem online (WileyPLUS), where it will be graded automatically, or writing your answer down on paper (or tablet) and then self-grading by checking the Student Solutions Manual (SSM) to see if your answer is correct. *Detailed answers to ALL textbook problems are provided in the SSM, so be sure to download the VitalSource eBook!*



QR code for
[list of suggested textbook problems](#)

- **WileyPLUS Online Textbook Problems & Lightboard Videos** – WileyPLUS is included with Instant Access, so be sure to explore it during the two-week trial period! In WileyPLUS, each chapter of the Klein textbook is laid out by section, with the relevant in-chapter problems provided as an assignment. As we move through the material in class, you need to do the same on your own: **READ** the section, **STUDY** the instructions and examples in the SkillBuilders and our lecture notes, and **PRACTICE** by attempting the problems. After doing a little work on each of the SkillBuilders, then you should move to the suggested end-of-chapter (EOC) problems, to have maximum preparation for the exam. Hand-written textbook problems will also be accepted for course credit (in addition to WileyPLUS, or as a replacement). Please note that we will have four *written*, in-person exams this semester, so having some amount of *written* homework is quite beneficial, to provide practice drawing (especially for Chapters 7-11). To register for the WileyPLUS course go to www.wileyplus.com/go/login. Click “Sign up now” to create an account. You will be asked to enter your course section ID (**B17500**) for [CHM 3140 - Starkey Spring 2025](#) to complete the registration process. If you already have a WileyPLUS account, log in, click ‘Add more courses’ and enter your course section ID (**B17500**).
- **“Free Red Ink” Homework** – Every 1-2 weeks additional homework assignments will be given. All students who turn it in will receive credit, so I describe these assignments as “free red ink” because you will get feedback on your work without the mistakes hurting your grade.
- **Friday 5-Minute Reflection** – Thinking about the way you learn, called “metacognition,” can help you study better and improve your grades! To encourage reflective thinking, a weekly Gradescope assignment is given every Friday. The “Friday Five” assignments should only take 5-10 minutes, and the weekly prompts will help you plan and hold yourself accountable for the work that needs to be done. Additional opportunities for reflection include an “exam wrapper” survey and submission of test corrections after each midterm.
- **Organic Learning Community (OLC)** – Research shows that students who work with other students can achieve more and earn higher grades. To encourage student-to-student teaching and learning, course credit is earned by students who join a study group that meets weekly for at least one hour (OLC details are provided below).
- **Stay Organized** – Start studying now. If you wait until a few days before each exam, it'll be too late. **Try flashcards!** Review your notes often, ideally before each problem-solving session. Actively work through your notes, ask questions, and retry problems worked on in class.
- **Communicate** – Please check your @cpp.edu email regularly so you won't miss important course announcements made through Canvas (did you know you can forward it to another email account?). Post a quick question on the Discord server – @LaurieStarkey to direct message me – or schedule time during office hours to ask questions about the lecture, your notes, homework, the book, your exam, etc. If you are struggling – ask for help! Reach out to me and/or your study group, come to office hours, find a tutor at the LRC...don't go it alone, and don't wait until it's too late.

How will I help you learn?

I recognize that Organic Chemistry sometimes has a scary reputation as a “weed-out” course, but I promise that you are capable of meeting, and even mastering, the challenge ahead. We are about to embark on a journey together, and I am fully committed to your success! As I guide your learning, I will wear many hats: organized lecturer, demanding coach, enthusiastic cheerleader, wise elder, patient tutor, career counselor and well-prepared Sherpa. I invite you to visit office hours where we can discuss lecture notes, textbook problems, homework assignments, midterm results, strategies for studying, and even extracurricular activities. I serve as Advisor to two student clubs: Chemistry (SMACS) and Pre-Dental, and most students who visit my office find that our discussions usually extend beyond Organic Chemistry! I am constantly exploring new methods and tools to make my teaching more effective and to improve student learning, and I welcome your feedback about what works and what doesn't. In addition to recommending relevant textbook problems, I will provide additional assignments and activities that will help you learn the material while developing essential problem-solving skills.

What textbook and materials are needed?

Students must complete one year of General Chemistry before beginning Organic. CHM 3140L lab is NOT a co-requisite. **The textbook (with Solutions Manual) and WileyPLUS is required, and is included with CPP Instant Access.** The textbook can be accessed through WileyPLUS (under Wiley Course Resources link) and an eTextbook can be downloaded onto multiple devices for offline use as well (VitalSource Bookshelf app). **The VitalSource e-text has perfect formatting and an integrated Solutions Manual.** A binder-ready hard copy is also available (extra charge).

(Req = Required and Rec = Recommended)

Req: D. Klein, "Organic Chemistry," Wiley, 4th edition

Req: D. Klein, "Student Solutions Manual" (SSM) for above text

Rec: WileyPLUS online system is bundled with the textbook course section ID (B17500)

Rec: Molecular model set (e.g., Kit #3 <https://www.darlingmodels.com>).



How will your learning be measured?

Course grades are based on textbook-based homework (SkillBuilders and/or EOC), possible quizzes, brief weekly assignments, three written midterm exams, and a final exam. *Each exam is cumulative but will emphasize the immediately preceding chapters.* Exams must be taken as scheduled, **in person** and NO make-up exams will be given, but **the lowest midterm grade will be dropped**. If more than one midterm is missed, a grade of zero will be assigned for the missing midterm exam(s).

Homework problems	125 pts (25%)	Textbook problems/WileyPLUS & "Free-red-ink"	
Weekly study/reflection	75 pts (15%)	Friday Fives, OLC Study Group, Exam Wrapper	
Ch. 1, 2, 3 Exam I	100 pts	} (40%) Thursday, 2/13 (60 min. during class time)	
Ch. 4, 5, 15 Exam II	100 pts		Thursday, 3/13 (60 min. during class time)
Ch. 6, 7 Exam III	100 pts		Thursday, 4/17 (60 min. during class time)
Ch. 1-11, 15 Final Exam	100 pts (20%)	Tuesday, 5/13 (see last page for times)	



QR code
[CHM 3140](#)
[Course Points](#)

How will grades be assigned?

As described above, there is a total of 500 points to be earned. Completion of weekly activities, quizzes and submitted homework assignments will earn points, and your level of participation in the course will also be used in the event of borderline grades. Your assigned course grade will be based on your total points earned and how the total relates to the class average. The class average will be used as the break between C and C+ and it will be scaled up to 75% (375 points) if it falls below that. Grades will not be scaled down if the class average is above 75%! An example of the grade breakdown:

A/A- (90–100%) B+/B/B- (80–89%) C+/C/C- (70–79%) D (65–69%) [if Average = 75 = C/C+ cutoff]

What happens if life gets complicated?

There are many excellent resources available at Cal Poly Pomona if you need help: Disability Resource Center (DRC), Counseling Center, Learning Resource Center (LRC), Veteran's Resource Center, Women's Resource Center, Pride Center, Cultural Centers, etc. If for some reason you are unable to complete the course, come see me to discuss withdrawing (W) or possibly taking an Incomplete grade (to have "I" grade assigned, you must be passing the course with a C or better and have a university-recognized excuse). Otherwise, a grade of WU (unauthorized withdrawal) will be issued if the course is not completed (e.g., if the final exam is not taken). If you are struggling to keep up, come speak to me asap.

If you don't do your own homework, you will not pass this course! If you are tempted to copy someone else's homework, or turning to Chegg for answers, I suggest you rethink your strategy! Besides jeopardizing your future by cheating, you are also missing the point of why you are at Cal Poly Pomona and taking this class. Cheating on an exam (e.g., posting/receiving answers online, using notes, providing/accepting answers from another student, working with another student) results in a zero grade that cannot be dropped, and you will be reported to CPP office of Student Conduct & Integrity. My homework assignments are designed to help you learn the material, develop problem-solving skills, and offer helpful feedback so you can improve and do well on the midterms and final exam. I accept late homework, so get it done and turn it in when you can (but no later than the day of the exam). Please note that copying homework from the solutions manual, another student or the posted answer key is NOT "doing your homework," and it will NOT improve your performance on exams. If you are struggling, turn to your study group, and I am happy to work with you on your homework during office hours!

The CHM 3140 O-Chem Learning Community (OLC)

Participation in a study group accounts for 7 course points, and the sooner you get started, the more helpful it will be. To form an Organic Learning Community (OLC), you will join up with other students taking CHM 3140 this semester for a group of at least 3 people; 4-5 is better. Your group spends at least one hour outside of class and lab together each week, working on class material such as homework or textbook problems. The meetings must be synchronous; they can be held in person, or by conference call, using Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype, Discord, etc. You must submit a weekly report ([Gradescope](#)), and you can't claim credit if your group didn't meet or you didn't participate. Many people find Organic Chemistry rather overwhelming and having company can help a lot. Please visit the "[Testimonials](#)" page (see QR code) to read about students describing their OLC experience!



QR code for
[O-Chem: What to
Expect and Student
Testimonials](#)

About me

I grew up in Connecticut and I was a Biology major when I started college at UConn, because I liked Marine Biology and I enjoyed dissecting things in high school. When I took Organic Chemistry, however, I was surprised at how interesting it was – I thought, "This is chemistry?!" My brain is not good at memorizing things, so I loved how there was an explanation for everything in Organic, and that I could work through every problem rather than just having to remember the answer. (By the way, my brain also has an embarrassing and nearly complete inability to remember names – so please don't take offense when I don't know your name!)

I was also excited about the many career opportunities available to chemists, so I changed my major to Chemistry and after earning my B.S. degree I went to UCLA to earn my Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. I focused on Organic Synthesis and planned a career in pharmaceutical R&D, making new drug candidates. Luckily, my passion for teaching led me to the perfect job here at Cal Poly Pomona!



QR code for
[Welcome video](#)

CHM 3140 Organic Chemistry I, Dr. Laurie S. Starkey, Spring 2025
Tentative Schedule (Chapter and Worksheet/Step # given for each day)

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	1/20 Holiday	1/21 Ch. 1 #1	1/22	1/23 Ch. 1 #2	1/24
2	1/27	1/28 Ch.1 #3 Ch.2 #1	1/29	1/30 Ch. 2 #2	1/31
3	2/3	2/4 Ch. 3 #1	2/5	2/6 Ch. 3 #2	2/7
4	2/10	2/11 Exam Review	2/12	2/13 Exam I	2/14
5	2/17	2/18 Ch. 4 #1	2/19	2/20 Ch. 4 #2	2/21
6	2/24	2/25 Ch. 5 #1	2/26	2/27 Ch. 5 #2	2/28
7	3/3	3/4 Ch. 5 #3	3/5	3/6 Ch.15 #1	3/7
8	3/10	3/11 Exam Review	3/12	3/13 Exam II	3/14
9	3/17	3/18 Ch.15 #2	3/19	3/20 Ch. 6 #1	3/21
10	3/24	3/25 Ch. 7 #1	3/26	3/27 Ch. 7 #2	3/28
S P R I N G B R E A K 3/31 – 4/4					
11	4/7	4/8 Ch. 7 #3	4/9	4/10 Ch. 7 #4	4/11
12	4/14	4/15 Exam Review	4/16	4/17 Exam III	4/18
13	4/21	4/22 Ch. 8 #1	4/23	4/24 Ch. 8 #2	4/25
14	4/28	4/29 Ch. 9 #1	4/30	5/1 Ch. 9/10 #2	5/2
15	5/5	5/6 Ch. 10 #1	5/7	5/8 Ch. 11 #1	5/9
Finals (section)	5/12	Tue. 9:00–10:50 am (05) 5/13 3:00–4:50 pm (02) 5:00–6:50 pm (03)	5/14	5/15	5/16

Organic Chemistry I, CHM 3140 Material Covered (Klein Text):

Ch. 1 **General Chemistry Review** (bonding, Lewis structures, hybridization, physical properties)

Ch. 2 **Molecular Representations** (resonance, formal charges, intro to functional groups)

Ch. 3 **Acid/Base (Proton Transfer) Reactions**

Exam I

Ch. 4 **Alkanes & Cycloalkanes** (conformations, nomenclature, 3D sketches)

Ch. 5 **Stereochemistry** (chirality, stereoisomerism: enantiomers/diastereomers, optical activity)

Ch.15 **NMR Spectroscopy** (Section 15.10 on Exam III)

Exam II

Ch. 6 **Study of Chemical Rxns** (thermodynamics, kinetics, E diagrams, arrow pushing patterns)

Ch. 7 **Alkyl Halides: Nucleophilic Substitution & Elimination Reactions** (S_N2, S_N1, E2, E1)

Exam III

Ch. 8 **Reactions of Alkenes** (addition reactions, oxidation reactions, synthesis strategies)

Ch. 9 **Reactions of Alkynes** (addition reactions, ozonolysis, acidity of alkynes, alkylation)

Ch. 10 **Radical Reactions** (free radical halogenation, radical additions to alkenes, polymerization)

Ch. 11 **Synthesis Strategies** (and Review of Chapters 7–10)

Suggested textbook problems: SkillBuilders & EOC – see “SkillBuilder/EOC Cover Sheet” for each chapter.