

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
COURSE SYLLABUS
WINTER 2026

Chem 353, Organic Chemistry II

Optical properties: optical rotation, optical purity, enantiomeric excess. Diastereomers (Ch 7)

Electrophilic addition reactions of alkenes and alkynes. (Ch 6 & 9) Markovnikov's rule: empirical, basis, application. Stereochemistry (syn / anti / not specific additions), product stereochemistry.

Alkenes: (Ch 6)

Review preparations via elimination of alkyl halides and alcohols.

Reactions: heterogeneous cat. hydrogenation, hydrohalogenation (HX, inc. radical HBr), hydration (H_3O^+ , BH_3 , oxymercuration), halogenation, halohydrin (HOX, X_2 / H_2O), epoxidation with peracids, ozonolysis (oxid and red work ups), dihydroxylation (KMnO_4 and cat. OsO_4)

Alkynes: (Ch 9) internal and terminal subtypes.

Review preparations via elimination and alkylation reactions.

Reactions: reductions (cat. H_2 , Lindlar's cat., dissolving metal (Na/NH_3 and Na/THF then MeOH), halogenation, hydrohalogenation (HX and excess HX), hydration (H_3O^+ , tautomerisation). Hydroboration.

Organic synthesis: (Ch14) analysis and design. Basic retrosynthetic principles.

Dienes and allylic systems: (Ch 10) terminology, structure, bonding, subtypes, preparation.

Addition reactions with HX, X_2 , Diels-Alder. Kinetic and thermodynamic control.

Epoxides: (Ch 16) Reactions with nucleophiles. Regioselectivity for unsymmetrical epoxides based on reaction conditions and pathway.

Aromatic systems: (Ch 11)

benzene: structure, bonding, physical and chemical properties, reactivity implications.

aromaticity, resonance energy, criteria for aromaticity (inc. heteroaromatic and ions), the Huckel rule.

Electrophilic aromatic substitution reactions of benzene systems: (mainly Ch 12) Nitration, alkylation, acylation, sulfonation, halogenation. Scope and limitations.

Substituent effects : activating or deactivating, directing effects. Implications on properties (e.g. reactivity, acidity/basicity)

Reactions of aromatic substituents: review radical, nucleophilic substitutions, eliminations.

Oxidation of alkyl groups. Reduction of nitro groups. Diazotisation. Reaction of diazonium salts.

Synthesis of disubs. and poly subs. benzenes considering directing effects etc.

Introduction to organometallic compounds, (Ch14) esp. Grignard and related reagents (org. lithium, cuprates), hydride reagents (LiAlH_4 , NaBH_4 , DIBAL). Structure, reactivity.

(Ch15) Preparations of alcohols from carbonyl groups by reaction with organometallics and hydride reagents.

Relative reactivity of carbonyl containing functional groups.

Reactions of alcohols with carboxylic acid derivatives to give esters.

Oxidation of alcohols (chromium reagents)

Diols: properties, preparation and reactions of.

Nucleophilic addition reactions of aldehydes and ketones: (Ch17)

hydration, alcohols to give acetals and ketals (talk about these as protecting groups), cyanohydrins, organometallic reagents inc. hydrides, the Wittig reaction, reactions with primary amine derivatives.

Carboxylic acids and derivatives: (Ch 19 & 20) structure, bonding, physical and chemical properties, preparations.

Reactions: Nucleophilic acyl substitution of carboxylic acid derivatives for interconversion reactions (esp. preparations of acid derivatives and hydrolysis of acid derivatives) and reactions with organometallic and hydride reagents.

Enols and enolates of aldehydes, ketones and esters: (Ch 18 and 21) acidity, preparation.

Reactions as nucleophiles in alkylation and condensation reactions (aldol, Claisen, Dieckmann). Active methylene compounds. Decarboxylation of beta-keto systems.

Text book : [Organic Chemistry etext \(ucalgary.ca\)](http://ucalgary.ca) (FYI this was originally created to support a textbook published by McGraw-Hill and therefore the order mirrors that physical text). *In very general terms*, Chem 351 covered chapters 1-5, 7, 8 & 13, Chem 353 covers 6, 9-12, 14-21)

A list of weekly topics with links to appropriate etext pages will be provided via D2L and [course website](#) at the end of each week ready for the week ahead.

A guide to the chapters is provided in the topic list above. At times there are reactions that fall in other chapters for various reasons. They are linked in the weekly summary mentioned above. This means some content from chapters 22, 23, 25 for example will be covered.