

# CHEM 2315 – Organic Chemistry Laboratory I

## Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Shawn M. Miller

## Fall Term, 2021

Email: shawn.miller@usu.edu

Office Hours: T/R 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM and  
by appointment

Office Location: Widtsoe 339

**Prerequisites:** CHEM 1215  
CHEM 2300 or 2310 (may be taken concurrently)

## Required Materials:

Lab Notebook: Whitelines notebook (ISBN: 9781411801769).

Lab Splash Goggles: Provided by the course. Also available at Campus Bookstore.  
**Safety glasses (even with side-shields) are unacceptable.**

Lab Coat: Must cover arms to wrists and legs to knees. Available at Campus Bookstore.  
**Lab aprons are unacceptable.**

Lab Fees: The lab fee of \$75 is used to maintain and purchase equipment, purchase reagents and supplies, support Undergraduate Teaching Assistants, and partially fund graduate Teaching Assistant stipends.

## Recommended Materials:

Calculator: A calculator is useful for performing calculations in the lab. Other electronic devices, including cell phones, tablets, and laptops, are not permitted in lab.

## Course Overview

CHEM 2315 is a laboratory course that is designed to accompany CHEM 2300/2310 and reinforce the concepts presented in CHEM 2300/2310 via practical experimentation.

## Course Objectives

CHEM 2315 is a technical course designed to teach the properties, synthesis, separation, purification, and identification of organic compounds through in-laboratory space work and computational molecular modeling. In the laboratory space, students will conduct experiments designed to train students to use and apply experimental techniques, in conjunction with critical thinking, to solve problems. Additionally, this course will train students in how to record data in an organized fashion and use that data to create and justify conclusions. Students are expected to not just carefully and efficiently perform experiments in the laboratory, but also be able to explain the principles behind experiments.

**By the end of this course, students will be able to...**

- ...explain the theory behind standard organic chemistry laboratory techniques and instruments.
- ...predict possible outcomes of an experiment using knowledge of the theory behind the experiment.
- ...execute basic organic chemistry laboratory procedures safely and efficiently.
- ...record relevant scientific data and observations in a laboratory notebook.
- ...perform arithmetic calculations using recorded scientific data.
- ... create conclusions and justify those conclusions using collected laboratory data.

**Students will prepare for and practice achieving these objectives by...**

- ...reading the laboratory experiment handouts and watching the recorded lectures.
- ...preparing for lab by completing the Pre-lab Notebook and Pre-lab Quizzes.
- ...attending every lab on time.
- ...being safe in the lab.
- ...asking questions to the Teaching Assistant and course instructor via email, Canvas message, and/or Office Hours.

**Students will be assessed on how you have achieved these objectives using...**

- ...a Getting Started Quiz.
- ...completion of laboratory Check-in.
- ...Pre-lab Quizzes.
- ...submitted Laboratory Notebook pages.
- ...Laboratory Performance grades.
- ...Laboratory Cleanliness grades.
- ...completion of Laboratory Check-out.

## Course Covid-19 Policies

While not mandated, USU encourages and welcomes the wearing of masks in all university building, especially within 6 feet of others. In this course, goggles resistant to fogging are provided to make mask wearing more comfortable. Furthermore, it is strongly encouraged to take measures to mitigate risk as recommended by federal and state public health officials. These measures include getting fully vaccinated, staying home if you are sick (even with mild symptoms), and maintaining good hygiene including frequent hand washing. Testing will be provided, without charge, throughout the semester and the [USU COVID Webpage](#) will provide up-to-date information. Please remember; COVID can have significant impact on the health and safety of those around you so remain vigilant and respectful. If a student missed lab for an excused absence, they will work directly with the course instructor to complete missed experiments remotely. If a laboratory section is unable to perform an experiment due to Covid-19 related reasons, the course instructor will provide instructions on how to complete the experiment in an alternate fashion.

## Course Communication

Information that needs to be communicated to the entire course is sent via Canvas Announcements. Students are expected to check Canvas Announcements at least once a day and are responsible for any information in the announcements. "But I did not know" is not an acceptable excuse for being unaware of information in Canvas Announcements.

Students are always welcome to message their Teaching Assistant and/or the instructor with questions. Canvas messages are preferred, but email is fine as well. When messaging via email, students should include their full name, their A-Number, and the course name in their message. We will respond to messages in a timely manner, but we may not be able to respond immediately as we have responsibilities outside of the course.

The instructor will hold regular Office Hours as listed at the beginning of this syllabus and is willing to meet with students individually via appointment. Students wishing to make an appointment should contact the instructor directly via Canvas message with their schedule availability.

## Getting started in the course

Read the course syllabus and watch the "Introduction to CHEM 2315/2325" recorded lecture on Canvas. Read the "Laboratory Notebook Instructions" document on Canvas and watch the "Laboratory Notebook Instructions" recorded lecture on Canvas. Read the "Laboratory Safety Rules and Policy" document on Canvas and watch the "Laboratory Safety Rules and Policy" recorded lecture on Canvas. Complete the "Laboratory Safety Policies Agreement Documentation" assignment on Canvas, worth 10 points, by 11:59 PM the Friday of Week 1. Not submitting a complete "Laboratory Safety Policies Agreement Documentation" will prevent students from performing all experiments and from receiving credit for all experiments.

Complete the "Getting Started" quiz administered through Canvas. This quiz covers course policy and laboratory safety as detailed in resources described in the previous paragraph. Some questions in this Quiz will involve using common sense to make safe decisions and are not explicitly discussed in those resources. This Quiz is due at 11:59 PM on the Friday of Week 1 of the semester. The Getting Started quiz is graded immediately upon completion and may be attempted an unlimited number of times. Correct answers will not be shown upon completion, but responses will be viewable. If multiple attempts are made, the **best** score will be accepted. **If a numerical score is not present in**

**Canvas Grades, then no attempt was submitted.** The Getting Started Quiz score cannot be dropped, and extensions will not be granted.

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn #101, 435-797-2444, [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Utah State University is committed to providing access for service dog handlers. Due to the unique nature of the laboratory environment service animal handlers must meet with the Disability Resource Center prior to bringing a service dog into the lab. The purpose of this meeting is not to prevent you from having your service animal with you but rather to understand how to best accommodate your needs and the needs of your animal. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 435-797-2444 or [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu) to set up an appointment.

### **Laboratory Check-in and Check-out**

Laboratory Check-in is held during the first laboratory meeting of the term and will introduce students to their Teaching Assistant (TA) and the laboratory space including a discussion on safety information directly relevant to the laboratory space. Any student failing to attend Laboratory Check-in will not be permitted to perform any in-laboratory experiments and will not receive any credit for any experiments whether performed in the laboratory or not. If you know that you will be unable to attend Laboratory Check-in, you must give prior notice and documentation to the instructor to schedule a make-up Check-in.

Students must come properly attired according to the policies here in the course syllabus and in the “Safety Rules and Training Documentation” located on Canvas, bring their personal protective equipment, and their laboratory notebook. Students will be given a packet containing an equipment list that will be used to check against what is in their assigned drawer as well as a Safety Quiz, a Safety Scavenger Hunt, and some Pre-lab Notebook preparation practice. All Check-in components must be completed prior to leaving the laboratory at the end of Check-in.

Check-out follows a similar structure to Check-in. Students will receive their packet containing the equipment list and will be again check against what is in their assigned drawer. 10 points each will be awarded for completing Check-in and Check-out.

### **Preparing for Lab**

Watch the recorded lecture(s) on Canvas and read the experiment handout(s) on Canvas for each experiment before each laboratory session. For success in this course, students should be an active participant when thinking about the course material and always ask themselves “how and why?” Every step in an experimental procedure has a purpose. At each step, a student should be able to explain why that step is being performed.

After completing the background preparation described in the previous paragraph, complete a Pre-lab Notebook unless stated otherwise in the experiment handout. **Failing to complete the Pre-lab Notebook will prevent you from performing the experiment resulting in a score of zero for**

**that experiment.** Detailed instructions on preparing and keeping a laboratory notebook is found in the “Laboratory Notebook Instructions” document on Canvas.

Each experiment has a Pre-lab Quiz located on Canvas. Pre-lab Quizzes are due **30 minutes** before the laboratory section meets for an experiment. These Quizzes contain 10 questions, and each Pre-lab Quiz is worth 10 points.

Recorded lectures and experimental handouts may be referenced when completing the Pre-lab Quiz and the Pre-lab Notebook, but all work must be completed alone. The lowest scoring Pre-lab Quiz is dropped at the end of the course.

### **Performing an Experiment**

There are 9 experimental laboratory sessions. Each laboratory session is assigned one experiment whose submission is worth 40 points and as this is a technical, performance-based course each experiment is mandatory. Make-up experiments for religious obligations and similar scenarios may be possible if the instructor is notified **well in advance**. Due to their sudden nature, make-up experiments are generally not granted for experiments missed due to illnesses or other unexpected situations. As this is a course with large enrollment numbers, opportunities for a make-up experiment are few even with advance notice. To account for this, the lowest Experiment Submission score is dropped at the end of the course.

Each TA will give a pre-lab lecture immediately at the start of the laboratory session; therefore, you must arrive to your lab sessions on time. The TA’s pre-lab lectures are critical to your safe and successful performance of each experiment. Arriving late to lab means that you will miss important information pertaining to safe and efficient performance of that day’s experiment. TAs will deduct 3 points from the Lab Performance grade, described later in this syllabus, of any student arriving during the TA pre-lab lecture. **Students that miss the TA pre-lab lecture entirely will not be permitted to perform the experiment and will receive a score of zero for the experiment.**

### **Dry Labs**

As seen in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus, some experiments are listed as “dry” labs. They Dry Labs are computational experiments that may be completed at home or in the computer lab in Widtsoe 334. Dry Labs always have a Pre-lab Quiz. Dry Labs may have Pre-lab Notebooks. If they do, they will have specific instructions in the experiment handout for completing the Pre-lab Notebook.

### **Wet Labs**

All experiments not labeled “dry” experiments are “wet” experiments that will be performed in your regular laboratory room. Information and procedures for each experiment are found in handouts on Canvas.

Safety is the top priority in this course. Details on what is and is not acceptable lab attire are found in the “Laboratory Safety Rules and Policy” document on Canvas and the “Laboratory Safety Rules and Policy” recorded lecture on Canvas. Students must wear appropriate attire under the laboratory coat and appropriate footwear. Students must wear a laboratory coat and splash goggles in the laboratory.

Students barred from the laboratory for an experiment because of improper attire will receive a score of zero for the experiment.

At the start of the laboratory section, the Teaching Assistant will check Pre-lab Notebooks and will give a short pre-lab lecture. Students who did not complete the Pre-lab Notebook will not be permitted to complete the experiment and will receive a score of zero for the experiment. No food or drink is allowed in the laboratory. Do not bring in water bottles. Do not use cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other unauthorized electronic devices in the laboratory. Only items required to complete the session's experiment are allowed into the laboratory space.

Laboratory Performance grades are a measure of student safe and efficient efforts in the laboratory. Each wet experiment is allocated five Laboratory Performance points. At the discretion of the Teaching Assistant, Laboratory Performance grades may be reduced for unsafe or irresponsible conduct in the lab. The Teaching Assistant may also choose to fully dismiss students from the lab for unsafe, disruptive, or irresponsible behavior. In such an event, the students will receive a score of zero for the experiment. No Laboratory Performance grades are dropped. In the event of an excused absence, the Laboratory Performance grade for that Experiment will be the average of Laboratory Performance grades for all other Experiments. No more than one Laboratory Performance score can be made up.

Students have only the allotted time of 2 hours and 50 minutes in lab to finish each experiment. **This includes cleaning.** Most experiments will require the majority of the scheduled laboratory period, so it is important that students come to lab prepared to efficiently perform the experiment. Students should use low-intensity periods in the laboratory to prepare for later steps in the experiment procedure or to clean equipment. Teaching Assistants have the authority to instruct students to begin cleaning even if the students have not yet completed the experiment to ensure the students leave the laboratory room on schedule.

Students with health or physical conditions that warrant additional precautions (respiratory ailments, pregnancy, etc.) should contact the instructor *immediately* to discuss their circumstances. Student safety in the laboratory is our top priority.

### **Post-Lab**

Part of being safe includes ensuring the laboratory is clean and organized. At the end of each wet lab period, the Teaching Assistant will grade the cleanliness and organization of the community areas in the laboratory, such as the weighing balances, waste areas, and sinks, **as a section** out of 5 points. Every student in a lab section will receive the same Laboratory Cleanliness Grade. This means that if, for example, the areas around the weighing balances are messy at the end of lab, you will be penalized even if you did not personally make the mess. Remind each other that it is everyone's responsibility to leave the lab in good condition. Laboratory Cleanliness grades are not dropped. A rubric for how Laboratory Cleanliness points are assigned is located on the course Canvas website. In the event of an excused absence, the Laboratory Cleanliness grade for that Experiment will be the average of Laboratory Cleanliness grades for all other Experiments for the student.

Once their notebook pages for an experiment are complete, students submit their notebook pages to a Canvas assignment. Students may submit their notebook pages as images or PDFs, but it is strongly recommended that students download and use one of the many free apps available that automatically convert images to PDFs as they are easier to handle for both students and Teaching Assistants. Students may submit their notebook pages as a single file or individual pages, although a single file

is preferred. To submit individual pages, make successive submissions to the same assignment. **It is the students' responsibility to ensure their submissions are legible.** Teaching Assistants cannot grade what they cannot read, and illegible submissions will receive a score of zero.

Specific due dates for each experiment's submission are shown via each experiment's Canvas Assignment. **Always check Canvas for specific due dates.** In general, the due date for experiment submissions is one week after the experiment is performed. **All deadlines are hard deadlines and there are no exceptions.**

Notebook pages will be graded for completeness and correctness, including an appropriate account of the procedure as actually performed, all relevant data and observations, calculations, and conclusions.

As students work in pairs and collaborative work is strongly encouraged, there will be significant similarities, particular with regards to recorded data, between the notebook pages each student in a pair submits. However, students must create and submit their own work. **Copying another student's Conclusions, or any other section, is plagiarism and an example of an academic integrity violation.**

### **Academic Integrity**

All Utah State University academic integrity policies are strictly enforced. All students at Utah State University agree to be bound by the following Honor Pledge "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." See the following for further information: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5>. Students found guilty of academic misconduct on any assignment will, **at minimum, be given a zero for the assignment and have the full value of that assignment deducted from their final course grade.** Actions up to and including a failing grade for the course are options available to the instructor. Examples of violations of the academic integrity policies include, but are not limited to, copying the objectives, conclusions, post-lab question answers, and other sections of laboratory notebook submissions of another student including a student's laboratory partner.

## **Grading**

The total score for each type of assignment represents totals after appropriate lowest scores have been dropped.

Check-in	10	94 – 100	A
Safety Policies Agreement	10	90 – 93	A-
Getting Started Quiz	20	87 – 89	B+
Pre-lab Quizzes	80	84 – 86	B
Experiment Submissions	320	80 – 83	B-
Laboratory Performance	35	77 – 79	C+
Lab Cleanliness	35	74 – 76	C
Check-out	10	70 – 73	C-
End-of-term evaluations	10	67 – 69	D+
<hr/> Total points	<hr/> 530	60 – 66	D
		0 – 59	F

Course scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Your TA is the instructor of record for all grading related to the laboratory experiments. Questions about lab report point deductions must be addressed directly to your TA. The administration of CHEM 2315, including the issuing of grades of Incomplete, will adhere to the outlines in the USU General Catalog. In the event of significant differences in TA grading are observed, standardization will be performed to account for the differences.

## **Course Assessment**

Partway through the semester, the instructor will solicit feedback through optional midterm evaluations on Canvas. The purpose of these surveys will be to determine student opinions of the course and TAs up to that point and ask for suggestions on what could be done to improve the course for the rest of the semester. The instructor will know who completed the survey but will be unable to match survey responses to students. Each student who responds to the midterm evaluation will be granted extra credit points. At the end of the course, end-of-term evaluations of the course and the TAs will be administered through Canvas. The instructor will know who completed the surveys but will be unable to match survey responses to students. 5 points are awarded for completion of each survey for a total of 10 points.



## Fall 2021 Experiment Schedule

Please carefully read the below schedule for the correct order of laboratory experiments.

Week #	Week of	Experiment
1	8/30	Lab Check-in
2	9/6	<b>Labor Day (Monday) - No Labs All Week</b>
3	9/13	Separation of an Organic Mixture - Part I
4	9/20	Separation of an Organic Mixture - Part II
5	9/27	Molecular Modeling and Conformational Analysis (dry)
6	10/4	Absolute Configuration Determination of an Alcohol
7	10/11	<b>Fall Break (Friday) - No Labs All Week</b>
8	10/18	Molecular Modeling and Chirality (dry)
9	10/25	Distillation of a Mixture
10	11/1	Substitution Reactions of Alkyl Halides
11	11/8	Dehydration of Cyclohexanol
12	11/15	Bromination of an Alkene
13	11/22	<b>Thanksgiving Break - No Labs All Week</b>
14	11/29	Check-out