



Department of Chemistry

CHEM 2124 Syllabus Spring 2026

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2124 Course Calendar Spring 2026

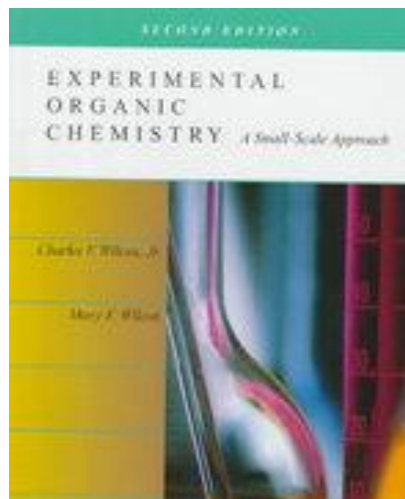
| Week | Date | Experiment | Quiz | Quiz/Exam Availability - Deadline |
|------|------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | Jan 19-23 | No Labs! | | |
| 2 | Jan 26-30 | Lab Safety (Ch 1) & Bb | Quiz 1. Post-Lab Safety BioRAFT Online Training Quiz 2a. Pre-Lab Melting Points | 1/26 at 12:00 am - 2/3 at 11:59 pm 1/26 at 12:00 am - 2/3 at 11:59 pm 1/26 at 12:00 am - 2/1 at 11:59 pm |
| 3 | Feb 2-6 | Melting Points (8.4 A) & IR PPT/Machine (Ch 13) | Quiz 2b. Post-Lab Melting Points Quiz 3a. Pre-Lab Crystallization | 2/2 at 12:00 am - 2/10 at 11:59 pm 2/2 at 12:00 am - 2/8 at 11:59 pm |
| 4 | Feb 9-13 | Crystallization (8.4 B) & IR | Quiz 3b. Post-Lab Crystallization Quiz 4a. Pre-Lab Distillation | 2/9 at 12:00 am - 2/17 at 11:59 pm 2/9 at 12:00 am - 2/15 at 11:59 pm |
| 5 | Feb 16-20 | Distillation (5.4 A&B) & IR | Quiz 4b. Post-Lab Distillation Quiz 5a. Pre-Lab Extraction | 2/16 at 12:00 am - 2/24 at 11:59 pm 2/16 at 12:00 am - 2/22 at 11:59 pm |
| 6 | Feb 23-27 | Extraction (9.7 D) - Sublimation (8.3) & IR | Quiz 5b. Post-Lab Extraction Quiz 6a. Pre-Lab TLC | 2/23 at 12:00 am - 3/3 at 11:59 pm 2/23 at 12:00 am - 3/1 at 11:59 pm |
| 7 | Mar 2-6 | Chromatography (TLC) (10.7 C) & NMR PPT/ Machine (Ch 15) | Quiz 6b. Post-Lab TLC Quiz 7a. Pre-Lab S _N 1 | 3/2 at 12:00 am - 3/10 at 11:59 pm 3/2 at 12:00 am - 3/8 at 11:59 pm |
| 8 | Mar 9-13 | S _N 1 Reaction (18.3 C) & NMR | Quiz 7b. Post-Lab S _N 1 Quiz 8a. Pre-Lab Kinetics | 3/9 at 12:00 am - 3/31 at 11:59 pm 3/9 at 12:00 am - 3/29 at 11:59 pm |
| 9 | Mar 16-20 | No Labs! | Spring Break | |
| 10 | Mar 23-27 | No Labs! | Chavez Holiday | |
| 11 | Mar 30- Apr 3 | Chemical Kinetics (20.4) | Quiz 8b. Post-Lab Kinetics Quiz 9a. Pre-Lab Aspirin | 3/30 at 12:00 am - 4/7 at 11:59 pm 3/30 at 12:00 am - 4/5 at 11:59 pm |
| 12 | Apr 6-10 | Synthesis of Aspirin (49.2 A) & NMR Chemical Kinetics for Fri Labs Only Post Lab: 4/10 to 4/12 at 11:59 pm | Quiz 9b. Post-Lab Aspirin Quiz 10a. Pre-Lab E1 | 4/6 at 12:00 am - 4/14 at 11:59 pm 4/6 at 12:00 am - 4/12 at 11:59 pm |
| 13 | Apr 13-17 | E1 Reaction (21.5 A) & NMR | Quiz 10b. Post-Lab E1 Quiz 11a. Pre-Lab Isopentyl | 4/13 at 12:00 am - 4/21 at 11:59 pm 4/13 at 12:00 am - 4/19 at 11:59 pm |
| 14 | Apr 20-24 | Isopentyl Acetate (30.2.A) & IR-NMR | Quiz 11b. Post-Lab Isopentyl Quizzes 12a&b. Pre & Post-Lab IR Quizzes 13a&b. Pre & Post-Lab NMR | 4/20 at 12:00 am - 4/28 at 11:59 pm 4/13 at 12:00 am - 4/26 at 11:59 pm 4/13 at 12:00 am - 4/26 at 11:59 pm |
| 15 | Apr 27-29 | No Labs! | Comprehensive Final Exam Online via Blackboard | 4/27 at 12:00 am - 4/29 at 4:00 pm |

Important Dates

- ❖ Jan 20th Spring 2026 classes begin
- ❖ Mar 16-20th Spring Break - No Labs!
- ❖ Mar 23-27th Cesar Chavez Holiday - No Labs!
- ❖ Apr 2nd Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
- ❖ Note: Student-initiated drops after this date are permitted, but a grade of W is not guaranteed. The faculty member will issue either a W or F.
- ❖ Apr 3rd Spring Study Day - no classes
- ❖ May 11-15th Spring Lecture Final Exams

Required Materials

1. **Textbook:** *Experimental Organic Chemistry: A Small-Scale Approach*, 2nd Edition, by Wilcox & Wilcox (available at the UTEP Bookstore).



- *Note:* Purchasing the textbook is **mandatory!** PowerPoint slides may not be available.
2. **Goggles (not safety glasses):** Must form a complete seal around your eyes.
 3. **Pants (not shorts):** Legs must be fully covered.
 4. **Shoes (not sandals):** Feet must be completely covered.
 5. **Lab coat.**

⚠ Important: Students missing any part of the required safety attire will be turned away and will receive a zero for attendance.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize the hazards in each laboratory and know how to mitigate associated risks.
2. Read and understand all relevant textbook chapters, not just the experimental procedures.
3. Draw and interpret all chemical structures and mechanisms for each lab.
4. Apply learned mechanisms to new reagents and situations, demonstrating understanding beyond rote procedures.
5. Identify which fundamental mechanism is involved (Addition, Elimination, or Substitution) and predict stereochemical outcomes.
6. Determine whether a compound or reagent is undergoing oxidation or reduction.
7. Calculate the yield of a product by understanding:
 - a. Conversion between structure and chemical formula
 - b. Conversion from formula to molecular weight
 - c. Conversion between mL and grams using density
 - d. Conversion from grams to moles
 - e. Identification of the limiting reagent
 - f. Stoichiometry of the reaction
8. Explain the rationale behind the specific procedures followed in each experiment.

Weekly Preparation Expectations

Students are expected to prepare the following items each week:

1. **Textbook Reading:** Review the chapter in the *Wilcox & Wilcox* textbook that corresponds to the week's experiment.
2. **Pre-Lab Quizzes:** Complete the Pre-Lab Quizzes, which include questions based on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provided as PDFs. Both the quiz and the SDS files can be found in each experiment folder on Blackboard.
3. **Post-Lab Quizzes / Reports:** Submit the Post-Lab Quizzes (also called the Post-Lab Reports), available in each experiment folder on Blackboard. Additionally, review the associated lab activity and PowerPoint slides on Blackboard.

On the first day of class, students should ensure they can access the course on Blackboard and locate their Pre-Lab Quizzes and Post-Lab Reports for the semester.

Course Assessment

Grade Breakdown: The course grade is based on a total of 1000 points (100%) as follows:

- **BioRAFT Online Training:** 15 pts
 - **Lab Attendance (11 sessions × 35 pts each):** 385 pts
- Subtotal for Attendance (385 pts) + BioRAFT (15): 400 pts → **40% of final grade**
- **Online Comprehensive Final Exam (Blackboard):** 100 pts. → 10%
 - **Online Pre-Lab Quizzes (Blackboard):** 164 pts → 16.4%
 - **Online Post-Lab Quizzes (Blackboard):** 336 pts → 33.6%

Grading Scale: A > 90%, B > 80%, C > 70%, D > 60%, F < 60%

BioRAFT Online Safety Training

An online “Safety Training” is available via Blackboard in the “Laboratory Safety (Chapter 1) – Bb” folder. The training is hosted on the BioRAFT website: <http://utep.bioraft.com/>.

Instructions to complete the training:

1. Log in to BioRAFT, click “Training”, then “Course Directory”.
2. Under **Lab Safety**, select “Laboratory Safety for Academic Lab Courses (Online)” and click “Launch Course” to start the training.
3. Alternatively, you can access the training via MY UTEP → Environmental Health & Safety → Training → Laboratory Safety for CHEM (Online) and then click “Launch Course”.

Important Notes:

- Completion of the **BioRAFT Online Training is MANDATORY** for all students.
- **15 points** are awarded for completing the training on time, together with the Post-Lab Safety Quiz.
- The training is available during the same period as the Safety Quiz. **Late submissions will result in a loss of 15 points.**
- Upon finishing the quiz, you will receive a **BioRAFT Certificate of Completion**.
- **Upload your certificate to Blackboard** as an assignment so your TA can verify it and grant the 15 points. **Do not send your certificate to your instructor**, as only your TA evaluates this credit.

Attendance Policy

1. Your **attendance score** reflects your commitment to:
 - ❖ Lab safety and successful execution of experiments
 - ❖ Quality of lab techniques
 - ❖ Lab hygiene
 - ❖ Accuracy of results and successful completion of products
2. **Full participation** is required to earn full attendance credit.
3. **Partial attendance credit** applies if you arrive late or leave early.
4. For attendance questions or concerns, **contact your TA**, not your instructor. Your TA will involve the instructor if necessary.
5. Students must attend their assigned lab. If unable to attend, notify your TA **in advance or as soon as possible** and arrange a makeup lab.
6. Your TA may allow a **makeup lab in another section within the same week**, if space permits. **No makeup labs are allowed after the week's experiment is over.**
7. It is your responsibility to:
 - ❖ Request a makeup lab at least a couple of weeks in advance
 - ❖ Follow up with your TA to confirm attendance and post-lab quiz credit **during the same week**, not at the end of the semester.
8. Do not expect the instructor or TA to find a makeup lab for you. Use **Goldmine** to locate a suitable lab if allowed.
9. **Unexcused absences** result in loss of attendance and post-lab quiz credit.
10. **Excused absences** (e.g., illness or university-sanctioned events) still require attendance in another lab to earn credit. Otherwise, the student loses attendance and post-lab quiz points.
11. Proper documentation is required for excused absences:
 - ❖ Medical or official university-sanctioned event proof (class trips, sports events, etc.)
12. Emails without documentation **do not constitute an excused absence.**
13. With a valid excuse (not personal travel, etc.), a TA may allow a makeup lab in another section **during the same week, if space is available.**
14. Makeup labs are **not guaranteed** due to limited lab capacity.
15. If you cannot attend **an entire week** of lab (e.g., hospitalization):
 - ❖ Notify your instructor as soon as possible
 - ❖ Provide proper documentation

- ❖ You will receive a lab video to watch, and your instructor will conduct an oral examination to assess your understanding of the virtual experiment. In addition, you must complete the online pre-lab and post-lab quizzes to earn credit.
16. Students with **unexcused absences** who complete a post-lab quiz will have their quiz grade **changed to 0 at any point during the semester**.
 17. **No grade exemptions:** students either earn attendance/post-lab quiz **credit** or receive a **zero**.

Pre-Lab and Post-Lab Quizzes:

Refer to the Course Calendar for quiz availability and deadlines.

1. Each week, students must complete **two quizzes**: a **Pre-Lab Quiz** and a **Post-Lab Quiz (Report)**.
 - ✓ Pre-Lab Quizzes are available for **one week**.
 - ✓ Post-Lab Quizzes are available for **nine days**.
 - ✓ Pay close attention to the course calendar for exact dates.
2. **Pre-Lab Quizzes:**
 - ✓ Open **one week before the experiment**
 - ✓ Available from **Monday at 12:00 AM to Sunday at 11:59 PM** in the experiment folder on Blackboard
3. **Post-Lab Quizzes (Report):**
 - ✓ Open **during the week of the experiment**
 - ✓ Available for **nine days, from Monday at 12:00 AM to the following Tuesday at 11:59 PM** in the experiment folder on Blackboard
4. **Missed Quizzes:** Any quiz not completed by the deadline will automatically receive a **score of zero** the week after the experiment ends.
5. **Quiz Format:**
 - ✓ Multiple-choice, multiple answers, matching, calculated numeric, fill-in-the-blank, or true/false
 - ✓ Pre-Lab Quizzes additionally include **safety questions** and questions from the **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** of the reagents/solvents used.
6. **Attempts:** Students have **three attempts** per quiz. **The last graded attempt will be recorded.** Multiple attempts account for potential internet or technical issues.

7. **Flexibility:** Quizzes are **not timed**, and you can pause and return later. Be sure to **save each question** if you stop working before finishing.
8. **Feedback:** After the due date, students can review the **correct answers** for each quiz/report.
9. **Time Zone:** All quiz/report deadlines are in **Mountain Standard Time (MST)**.

Note: Use your time wisely and stay consistent throughout the semester. Attend all lab sessions and complete all Pre-Lab and Post-Lab Quizzes on time to secure a good grade. No extra credit opportunities are available on this course, and grades cannot be improved at the end of the semester.

Final Exam Description

1. The **comprehensive final exam** covers all experiments, including **Safety, IR, and NMR labs**.
2. All exam questions are taken **directly from the Pre-Lab and Post-Lab Quizzes**.
3. The final exam will be available from **Monday, April 27, 2026, at 12:00 a.m. until Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**
4. The exam period will **not be extended under any circumstances**.
5. **Do not wait until the last minute!** Start your exam well before the deadline to avoid technical problems.
6. The exam must be taken using the **Respondus LockDown Browser**.
7. **No password** is required for the IR/NMR Quizzes or the Final Exam when accessed through Respondus LockDown Browser.
8. In Blackboard Ultra, some password-protected tests may automatically generate an **access code** instead.
9. To ensure familiarity, **Respondus LockDown Browser** is also required for the **IR/NMR quizzes** earlier in the semester.
10. Before the exam, **update Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor** to the latest version and ensure you have a **strong, stable internet connection**.
11. Respondus LockDown may require a **photo ID check** and a **room/environment scan** to verify academic integrity.
12. The use of **cell phones or any electronic devices** not equipped with Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor is **strictly prohibited** during the exam.
13. Students are **not allowed to have cell phones, notes, or visitors** present while taking the final exam.

Important Items

1. It is the **student's responsibility** (not the instructor's or TA's) to monitor their progress—**attendance and quiz grades**—on Blackboard throughout the semester.
2. To contact your TA or instructor, **send an email**. Messages sent through Blackboard will **not receive a response**.
3. **If a student misses a Pre-Lab Quiz, Post-Lab Quiz, or the Final Exam, there is no opportunity for a makeup.**
4. Quizzes will **not be reopened** after the submission deadline under any circumstances.
5. It is the **student's responsibility** to ensure that all quizzes are **successfully submitted** before the deadline.
6. Do **not wait until the last hour** to submit a quiz; technical issues close to the deadline will not be accommodated.
7. **Last-minute excuses**, such as computer freezes or internet outages, will **not be accepted**.
8. The **only acceptable excuses** are:
 - a. You (not a family member) are **seriously ill** and can provide a **doctor's letter** confirming your condition.
 - b. You are participating in an **official UTEP activity** (documentation required).
9. If you wish to **withdraw ("W")** from the course, it is **your responsibility** to do so before the **official university drop deadline**.
10. Students with approved **CASS accommodation** must contact the **Lab Coordinator** as soon as the CASS letter is received by both the student and the instructor.
 - Students may be required to provide a **doctor's note** for lab absences or to request quiz/exam extensions.

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is **strictly prohibited** and is considered a violation of the **UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP)**. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** Copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during an exam, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports.
- **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly presenting another person's words or ideas as your own.
- **Collusion:** Collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act.

Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is **unacceptable and will not be tolerated**. All suspected violations of academic integrity must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action.

To learn more, visit UTEP [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Technology Requirements

To ensure smooth access to Blackboard and course materials, please make sure you have:

- A reliable web browser such as **Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox** (other browsers may cause compatibility issues).
- A **stable internet connection**—a wired connection is strongly recommended when taking quizzes or exams.

Before taking a quiz on Blackboard, always:

- [Verify browser compatibility](#)
- [Update your browser to the latest version](#)
- [Clear your browser history and cache](#)

If technical problems persist:

1. Contact UTEP's [Help Desk](#) immediately.
2. Provide a **screenshot of the error**, your **course CRN**, and a **brief description of the issue**.
3. This information will help expedite the troubleshooting process.

COVID-19 Precaution Statement

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, notify your **Instructor of Record and Teaching Assistant (TA)** as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodation can be arranged.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are **required** to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu. The **Dean of Students' Office** will assist you and help you communicate with your professors. The **UTEP Student Health Center** is also equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recommends that individuals in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups. Because this applies to the **Organic Chemistry Teaching Lab**, students are encouraged to follow CDC recommendations and wear a facial mask—preferably an **N95**—throughout the lab period. The best way Miners can take care of one another is by getting vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are widely available throughout the El Paso area. For more information about local case rates, testing, and vaccination resources, please visit epstrong.org.

Note: The content of this syllabus is tentative and subject to slight variations.