



College of Arts & Sciences

Organic Chemistry I Lab- CHEM 2123-01L Syllabus-Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Ram Bhatta

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Instructional Method: Face-to-Face

Class Hours: M 11:00am -1:45pm

Class Location: Science and Technology Building, Room# 327

Office: CAB 354 B

Office hours: W 10am-11:30am, R 9am-10am, F 11am-12:30pm; and by appointment

Course Description

This is the accompanying laboratory for CHEM 2323: Organic Chemistry I. Experiments are designed to complement the concepts covered in CHEM 2323. Topics range from laboratory notebook record-keeping, melting points, recrystallization, extraction, distillation, chromatography, organic synthesis, computational and conformational analysis. Prerequisites: CHEM 1312 and CHEM 1112. Corequisite: CHEM 2323.

Course Materials

All required handouts will be provided on your blackboard.

Proper Clothing for lab: Closed-toe shoes that covers your foot in its entirety, no mid-riff shirts, no $\frac{3}{4}$ length pants, no pants with large holes. **This policy will be strictly enforced and student in noncompliance may be dismissed from the lab and will receive no credit for that week's experiment.** We take **your** safety in the laboratory very seriously and we expect the same from you. Goggles and lab coat **must** be worn properly in the laboratory **at all times. No exceptions! You must bring your own lab coat and goggle.** Without goggle and lab coat, you will not be allowed to perform any lab activities and will receive no credit for the experiment.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Developing a feel for the logic of organic experimental procedures: the logic of glassware design, selecting the optimum equipment for a particular reaction or operation, why particular solvents and reaction conditions are used for a specific transformation
- Keeping a laboratory notebook as a record of what is done and when it was completed
- Monitoring the process of a reaction
- Isolation of products
- Using computational approach to understand molecular conformations and electrostatic potential surfaces

Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend all laboratories and be fully and actively engaged in lab activities. Attendance will be monitored. Absences will be excused if due to illness (medical excuse), death of a close family member, religious holiday (please inform instructor), official university activity,

cancellation of classes/closure of the University, military duties, pregnancy & related conditions, or participation in legal proceedings. Only **one** laboratory will be excused for the above reasons upon receipt of supporting document.

Be prompt: Tardiness will not be tolerated. A point from your experiment grade will be deducted for every minute you are late, up to 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, you will not be allowed to perform the experiment. Pre-lab lecture and lab attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each meeting.

Late Work Policy: Students will be informed about due dates and times for laboratory reports. Work is required to be turned in on time. Late work will be subjected to an additional 25% penalty per day. For example, if a report is due Friday at 11:59pm and the student submits the report on Saturday at 8am, 25% will be deducted. If the report is submitted on Sunday, 50% will be deducted. Late lab work that is more than three days late will not be accepted.

Lab Partners: Students will work with a partner. We have made every effort to ensure that an even number of students are enrolled in this class. Therefore, barring extenuating circumstances, only groups of two students are permissible. Each group of two is expected to work independently and not with neighboring groups. Lab partners may be randomly assigned by the instructor and may be changed at any time on a rotating basis.

Visitors: Only students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom. No visitors are allowed.

Conduct and Behavior: My goal is to create a safe and engaging learning environment. Lab disruptions are unacceptable, asking questions to clarify material during the lab does not qualify as a disruption and is encouraged. If you disrupt the lab, you will be asked to leave for the day. Technology in the classroom may be a great a resource, but it can also hinder the lab safety. Therefore, students are not allowed to wear ear buds and headphones and/or use cellphones during the lab. All cellphones must be on vibration mode or turned off for the entirety of the class/lab period. In case of an emergency call, leave the room before answering the call. Texting during the lab is absolutely prohibited. The use of laptops, tablets or other devices for non-class related activities is not allowed.

Aggressive Behavior: The academic environment is meant for discussing ideas in a respectful manner. tolerance, empathy, respect, and courtesy help us create a safe environment. Abusive and aggressive behavior will result in contacting the University Police Department and immediate removal of the student from the lab.

AI policy: This class assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Academic Calendar: The complete academic calendar and final exam schedule are available online at the [University calendar website](#). Please be familiar with important dates.

Table 1: Tentative lab schedule: Subject to change*

Week #	Day	Experiment	Report due
1	Aug 24	Lab safety/Check-in	Signed Lab Safety Form
2	Aug 31	Melting Points	Melting Points - Prelab
3	Sept 7	No Lab (Labor Day)	
4	Sept 14	Recrystallization	Recrystallization – Prelab Melting Points - Postlab
5	Sept 21	Recrystallization Cont.	
6	Sept 28	Extraction	Extraction – Prelab Recrystallization – Postlab
7	Oct 5	Extraction Cont.	
8	Oct 12	Distillation	Distillation -Prelab Extraction - Postlab
9	Oct 19	Distillation Cont.	
10	Oct 26	TLC	TLC– Prelab Distillation – Postlab
11	Nov 2	Synthesis of Aspirin	Synthesis of Aspirin – Prelab TLC – Postlab
12	Nov 9	Synthesis of Aspirin Cont.	
13	Nov 16	SPARTAN Simulation	Synthesis of Aspirin – Postlab
14	Nov 23	SPARTAN Simulation Cont.	
15	Nov 30	Lab Check out	SPARTAN Simulation - Report
16	Dec 7	Final exam week – No lab	

*Dates, topics and exam coverage are tentative. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary. Please check course announcement on your blackboard for actual schedule and due date.

Grading:

Your grade for the course will be assigned based on your performance on special topics presentation and lab reports. These are the only opportunities for you to earn points throughout the semester. There will be **no** opportunities for extra credit.

Lab reports (prelab & postlab): 6 x 100 points each

600 points

SPARTAN simulation report

100 points

Total

700 points

To calculate your grade, use the following equation:

$$\left(\frac{\sum(\text{Points earned})}{700} \right) * 100$$

Table 2: Letter grade assignment:

Letter Grade:	A	B	C	D	F
% of Total Points:	90.0 - 100%	80.0 - 89.9%	70.0 - 79.9%	60.0 - 69.9%	0 - 59.9%

Important University Policies and Resources:

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit [Disability Support Services](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information visit [the university counselling website](#). Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App [TELUS student support app](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and

the Emergency Action Plan can be found at [emergency management website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral through the [university care referral website](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status.

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3)

child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

IMPORTANT. Each student receives this information during the first class. It is your responsibility to read this material and be familiar with the course syllabus and grading procedure.