

# Chemistry

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The chemistry curriculum at Whitman College offers a wide range of courses that provide in-depth exposure to chemical principles with hands-on laboratory experiences. Students use advanced instrumentation and computational simulations to explore the nature and composition of matter and the laws that govern chemical/biochemical reactions. The Chemistry major is designed to help students develop chemical intuition and the ability to apply these principles to solve a range of real-world problems.

**Learning Goals:** Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- Meet nationally set standards in analytical, organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry.
- Communicate scientific findings and information in graphical, written and oral format, both to technical and nontechnical audiences.
- Apply chemical knowledge, intuition, and logic to interpret data and devise and defend solutions to real-world problems.
- Use appropriate mathematical, computational, and analytical techniques to solve chemical problems.
- Work collaboratively, design experiments, and perform standard laboratory techniques to collect data.
- Employ modern scientific literature search tools to locate, retrieve, and organize scientific information.
- Identify and mitigate risks in a chemistry laboratory.
- Pursue career objectives in post-graduate education, industry, government, and other areas.

**Distribution:** The courses Chemistry 100, 102, 125, 135, 126, 136, 140 and 245 count for science distribution. All of these courses also count for quantitative analysis distribution except for Chemistry 245.

**Total credit requirements for a Chemistry major:** A student who enters Whitman without any previous college-level chemistry courses will require up to 40 chemistry credits to fulfill the major requirements. Additionally, 10 credits are required from courses in Mathematics and Statistics (see the major requirements below).

**Introductory General Chemistry Courses:** General Chemistry is required for several science majors. These courses provide a survey of the important topics and concepts in chemistry at the introductory level. A required General Chemistry Placement test is used to determine placement in courses that fulfill the first-year General Chemistry requirements. Option 1 is a yearlong general chemistry sequence of lectures and labs (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136). Problem-Solving in Chemistry (Chemistry 111) is a co-requisite for Chemistry 125, depending on the placement score. Option 2 is an accelerated one-semester Advanced General Chemistry lecture and lab (Chemistry 140). Students with an AP score of 4 or 5 receive credit for Chemistry 125 but not for Chemistry 135 lab. Students with AP/IB credit are strongly encouraged to enroll in Advanced General Chemistry (Chemistry 140). Premedical students should note that most medical schools require a full year of Organic Chemistry lecture (Chemistry 245 and 246), and two credits of Organic Laboratory Techniques I and II (Chemistry 251 and 252).

**The Chemistry Major:**

- 36–40 total credits
- Required courses:
  - Introductory General Chemistry: 125, 126, 135, and 136; or 140
  - Organic Chemistry: 245, 246, 251 and 252
  - Analytical Chemistry: 310
  - Physical Chemistry: 345
  - Inorganic and Advanced Synthesis: 360, and 370

- Mathematics: 124 or 125, 126, and 225
- Chemistry Seminar: Chemistry 401 or 402; taken no later than the penultimate semester
- Research/Thesis: At least two credits of Chemistry 490 or 498
- Two of the following three options:
  - Biochemistry (BBMB) 325, 335
  - Physical Chemistry 346, 352
  - Instrumental Chemistry 320
- Additional Notes
  - It is strongly recommended that students have a minimum grade point of 2.50 averaged over their most recent General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Calculus courses at the time of declaring their major.
  - Students who wish to complete the American Chemical Society certified chemistry major also must also complete BBMB 325 (note that Biology 111 is a prerequisite) and one year of college-level physics with a laboratory (Physics 145 or 155 and Physics 146 or 156).
  - Those interested in graduate coursework should consider additional coursework in mathematics and statistics (240, 244, or 367) or possibly in biology, and should consult with their advisor.
  - No P-D-F after declaration
- Senior Requirements
  - One-hour oral examination
  - Comprehensive written examination
  - A final written thesis and a public presentation of thesis work
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

**The Chemistry minor:**

- 15 Credits
- Required Courses
  - Chemistry 126 and 136, or 140 (note: 125 and 135 is prerequisite for 126 and 136)
  - Chemistry 245, 246, 251, and 252
  - At least one of the following: Chemistry 310, 345, 346, 388, or BBMB 325.
- Other Notes
  - Chemistry 401 and 402 cannot be applied to the minor
  - No P-D-F after declaration

**The Chemistry-Geology combined major:**

- 51-55 total credits
  - 16-20 credits in chemistry

- 25 credits in geology
- 10 credits from other departments
- Required chemistry courses
  - The full General Chemistry sequence by either
    - Chemistry 125, 126, 135, and 136, or
    - Chemistry 140
  - Chemistry 310
  - Two of the following, including at least one lab (indicated with asterisk \*)
    - Chemistry 320\*
    - Chemistry 346 (with or without 1 credit lab, Chemistry 352\*)
    - Chemistry 305 or 388\*
- Required geology courses:
  - Introductory geology from Geology 110 and 111, or 120 and 121, or 125 and 126
  - Geology 227, 270, 350, 358, 405, 460, and 470
- Required supporting science courses:
  - Mathematics 124 or 125, 126
  - Physics 145 or 155
- Notes on courses:
  - No courses taken P-D-F may be applied to the major
  - Majors are strongly encouraged to do a senior research project, enrolling in:
    - One credit of Chemistry 401 or 402
    - Two credits in Chemistry 490 or 498, or three credits of Geology 490 or 498
- Senior requirements:
  - Geology 470
  - Senior assessment:
    - Comprehensive written exams in both geology and chemistry
    - One-hour oral exam by chemistry and geology faculty
- Honors:
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project course with a geology or chemistry department faculty (Chemistry or Geology 498).
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

**The Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology (BBMB) major:** See BBMB under the *Courses and Programs* section in the catalog for a description of the courses and major offered at the interface of biology, chemistry, and physics.

**The Chemistry-Environmental Studies combined major:** The requirements are fully described in the *Environmental Studies* section of the catalog.

**The Chemistry/Pre-Engineering major:** The requirements are fully described in the *Engineering and Computer Science* section of the Catalog.

## **100 Introduction to Environmental Chemistry and Science**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**3 credits**

The goal of this course is to prepare students to be environmentally responsible citizens and empower them with scientific knowledge to make the right decisions concerning the environment. Chemistry 100 is a one-semester introduction to important topics in the environmental sciences. Emphasis will be placed on historic environmental success and what major problems remain to be solved. Topics will include the availability of clean water, effective wastewater treatment, restoration of the stratospheric ozone layer, the removal of anthropogenic produced lead, past and current endocrine disruptors, the proper use of risk assessment, appropriate actions to combat human-caused global warming, and an effective environmental legal national and international framework. Emphasis will be placed on the chemistry of each topic. No chemistry background is presumed. Highly recommended for environmental studies students not majoring in a natural science. Students may not receive credit for Chemistry 100 if they have taken Chemistry 125 or a more advanced college chemistry course. Working knowledge of college-level algebra is required. Three lectures per week; no lab.

## **102 Chemistry in Art**

**Spring**

**Hartman**

**4 credits**

This course for nonscience majors, will cover the principles of chemistry within the context of the production, analysis, and conservation of art. The influence of science and technology on art will be explored through such topics as color theory; the chemistry of pigments, dyes, binders, papers, inks, and glazes; forensic analysis of forgeries; conservation of works of art; and photography. Possible laboratory topics include pigments, etching, papermaking, textile dyeing, ceramics, electroplating, jewelry making, alternative photographic methods, and fused glass. No artistic skill or chemistry background is presumed. Students may not receive credit for Chemistry 102 if they have completed any other college-level chemistry course. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 102L (laboratory). The course may not be taken without the laboratory. *Lab fee:* \$40.

## **111 Problem-Solving in Chemistry**

**Fall**

**Hartman, Juhasz**

**1 credit**

This course focuses on developing skills and strategies relevant to solving the types of quantitative problems found in general chemistry. Students will learn to parse information given—and not given—in word problems, identify the information content of equations, and develop strategies to apply algebraic manipulation to solve problems of a range of complexity. Graded credit/no credit. Does not fulfill science or quantitative analysis distribution. *Note:* May not be applied to the Chemistry major or minor. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 125.

## **112 Problem-Solving in Chemistry II**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**1 credit**

This course builds on the skills and strategies developed in Chem 111 relevant to solving the types of quantitative problems found in general chemistry. Students will learn to parse information given—and not given—in word problems, identify the information content of equations, and develop strategies to apply algebraic manipulation to solve problems of a range of complexity. Graded credit/no credit. *Note:* May not be applied to the Chemistry major or minor. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 111 or consent of instructor. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 126.

## **125 General Chemistry I**

**Fall**

**Machonkin, Staff**

**3 credits**

The first semester of a yearlong course in general chemistry. Topics include: matter and measurement, atoms and elements, molecules and compounds, stoichiometry, aqueous reactions, gases, thermodynamics (including enthalpy, entropy, and free energy), the quantum-mechanical model of the atom, periodic properties of elements, and models of chemical bonding. Problem-solving involves the use of algebra, including logarithms and the quadratic equation. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 111 (unless placed out of it with a mandatory qualifying exam taken online prior to the Fall semester) and Chemistry 135. *Fee:* \$37.50

**126 General Chemistry II****Spring****Machonkin, Staff****3 credits**

The second semester of a yearlong course in general chemistry. Topics include: solids and liquids, properties of solutions, coordination chemistry, chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, aqueous ionic equilibria, kinetics, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, and other topics of the instructor's choosing. Problem-solving involves the use of more sophisticated algebraic manipulation than found in Chemistry 125. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 125.

*Corequisite:* Chemistry 136. *Note:* the corequisite of Chemistry 136 is not required for Geology or Geology-Environmental Studies majors. *Fee:* \$37.50.

**135 General Chemistry Lab I****Fall****Hartman, Staff****1 credit**

Laboratory exercises in physical and chemical properties of matter, with an introduction to both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis. Topics include gravimetric and volumetric analysis, molecular structure, chemical synthesis, acid-base chemistry, properties and reactions of various groups of elements, and thermochemistry. One three-hour laboratory per week. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 125. *Lab fee:* \$35.

**136 General Chemistry Lab II****Spring****Hartman, Staff****1 credit**

A continuation of Chemistry 135 with emphasis on descriptive chemistry and discovery-based experiments. Topics include analysis, kinetics, synthesis, and an introduction to spectrophotometric methods of analysis. One three-hour laboratory per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 135. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 126. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

**140 Advanced General Chemistry****Fall****D. Biswas****4 credits**

A one-semester accelerated course in introductory chemistry designed for students with AP or IB chemistry or other strong high school background in chemistry. The topics will include, but are not limited to, introductory chemistry concepts covered in CHEM 125-126, and will be covered in a greater detail at a faster pace. Laboratory experiments will complement the concepts developed in lecture, and will develop students' skills in gravimetric and volumetric analysis, quantitative reasoning, and data acquisition, analysis and visualization. Problem solving involves the use of algebra and some basic calculus. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. *Prerequisites:* Mathematics 124 or 125 or equivalent and either a 4 or 5 on the Chemistry AP, a 5 or higher on the Chemistry IB (HL), or a passing score on a qualifying exam (taken online) prior to Fall semester registration. *Lab fee:* \$30.

**171, 172 Special Topics in Chemistry****1-4 credits**

Any current offerings follow.

**245 Organic Chemistry I****Fall****Collins, Jo****3 credits**

The first semester of a yearlong course in organic chemistry. Topics include reaction mechanism, nomenclature, stereochemistry, spectroscopy, and the synthesis and reactions of alkyl halides, alkenes, alcohols, ethers, and alkynes. Three lectures per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 126 or 140.

**246 Organic Chemistry II****Spring****Collins****3 credits**

A continuation of Chemistry 245. Topics include spectroscopy, aromatic chemistry, carbonyl compounds, and biomolecules such as carbohydrates and amino acids. Three lectures per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 245.

**251 Organic Laboratory Techniques I****Fall****Collins, Jo****1 credit**

Introduction to fundamental organic laboratory techniques. Topics include recrystallization, distillation, melting point determination, chromatography, extraction, and one-step syntheses. One three-hour laboratory per week.

*Prerequisite:* Chemistry 126 or 140. *Pre- or corequisite:* Chemistry 245. *Lab fee:* \$20.

**252 Organic Laboratory Techniques II****Spring****Collins****1 credit**

Continuation of organic laboratory techniques involving intermediate exercises. The course covers more challenging syntheses as compared to Chemistry 251, as well as multistep synthesis and spectroscopic analysis of products. One three-hour laboratory per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 251. *Pre- or corequisite:* Chemistry 246. *Lab fee:* \$20.

**275 Computational Chemistry: Structure and Reactivity of Organic Molecules****Fall****D. Biswas****2 credits**

Application of quantum mechanics in organic molecules will be covered in this course. Topics will include molecular orbital theory, conformational analysis, chemical bonding, aromaticity, molecular spectra (IR, NMR), selectivity, transition states, and thermodynamics and kinetics of reaction mechanism. Students will be introduced to sophisticated quantum chemistry software for these calculations. A combination of lecture and hands-on tutorials will be offered during the class, which will improve students' ability to generate chemical models essential for understanding the structure and reactivity of organic molecules. No prior knowledge of quantum mechanics is needed beyond the gen. chem. level. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 245. *Corequisite:* Chemistry 246.

**305 Global Chemical Cycles****Not offered 2023-24****3 credits**

Chemical cycling is integral to many global processes: water cycling sustains life, mineral nutrients move from rocks to open oceans, carbon cycling regulates climate, and weather and water transports synthetic compounds from pole to pole. This course will apply basic chemical principles (thermodynamics, kinetics, redox, acid-base chemistry, solubility, etc.) to develop students' understanding of chemistry in lakes, streams, oceans, and soils. Students will integrate concepts from chemistry, biology, geology, physics, environmental science and humanities to evaluate case studies such as: CO<sub>2</sub> cycling in oceans, nutrient pollution in lakes and streams, biouptake of nutrients and pollutants, and drinking water disinfection. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 125, 126, 135 and 136, or 140; sophomore status or above.

**310 Quantitative Analysis and Chemical Equilibrium****Fall****Boland****4 credits**

The principles of chemical equilibrium and methods of quantitative analysis. Topics include statistical analysis of data, activities, and the systematic treatment of acid-base, precipitation, complexation, and oxidation-reduction equilibria. Laboratory exercises involve the exploration and elucidation of the concepts and methods developed in lecture, and include gravimetric, titrimetric, and colorimetric analyses, with an introduction to selected instrumental methods of analysis and instruction in and use of electronic spreadsheets for data analysis and graphing. Two 80 minute lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 126 and 136 or 140. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

**320 Instrumental Methods of Analysis****Spring****Boland****4 credits**

This course deals with sample preparation, data analysis, method development, and the theory of operation of modern laboratory instrumentation. Instrumental techniques discussed in lecture and used in the laboratory will include flame atomic absorption spectroscopy, capillary electrophoresis, inductively coupled plasma spectrometry, basic mass spectrometry, scanning electron microscopy with elemental detection, and ion, high pressure, and gas chromatography. Laboratory exercises will concentrate on real world applications of chemical analysis. One Friday

afternoon field trip may be required. Three lectures and one three- to four-hour laboratory per week are required. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 310, 251 and 252 or consent of instructor. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

### **330 Asymmetric Organic Synthesis**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**2 credits**

This course will focus on topics in modern organic chemistry with an emphasis on asymmetric transformations. Themes from Chemistry 245 & 246 will be expanded to include advanced discussion of structure, reactivity, and selectivity. Issues such as steric sensitivity and stereoselectivity will be discussed using examples of key transformations drawn from the chemical literature. In these discussions, students will gain an appreciation for the strategic application of asymmetric methods in organic synthesis. Active participation in class discussion and the presentation of work will be a significant component of this class. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 246.

### **333 Drug Design**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**2 credits**

This course focuses on the design of medicinal agents based on predicted interactions with target biomolecules. Students will learn how to apply current drug development strategies through the examination of case studies of organic molecules that bind to receptors, enzymes, or DNA. In this context, students will analyze the medicinal properties of organic molecules as well as how structural modifications can prevent early metabolic clearance. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 246 and Biology 111.

### **340 Materials Chemistry**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**3 credits**

This course will introduce synthetic methods, properties, and applications of materials synthesized through chemical means, ranging from organic polymers to inorganic crystals. An overview of the physics necessary to understand polymer properties and electronic structure in solids will be included. Particular emphasis will be placed on the control of material structure through chemical mechanisms and how molecular and nanoscale structure translate to macroscale properties. A portion of the course will be dedicated to the study of nanomaterials and how unique properties emerge from constraining dimensions of materials to the nanoscale. Throughout the course students will be asked to consider the effect of the development and production of synthetic materials on society. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 126 or 140; Chemistry 245 and 1-year of college physics recommended.

### **345 Physical Chemistry I: Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy**

**Fall**

**Staff**

**4 credits**

This course is the first of a two-semester sequence exploring the fundamental behavior of chemical systems in terms of the physical principles which govern their behavior. The specific focus is on the quantum behavior of matter as it pertains to atomic energies, bonding, reactivity, and spectroscopy. The course will also include the use of applied mathematical techniques and spectroscopic analyses of representative systems to provide concrete examples and applications of the course material. Meets four hours per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 126 or 140. *Pre- or corequisite:* Mathematics 225 or consent of the instructor. One year of high school physics or one semester of college-level physics is highly recommended.

### **346 Physical Chemistry II: Statistical Thermodynamics, Classical Thermodynamics and Kinetics**

**Spring**

**Hendricks**

**3 credits**

This course is the second of a two-semester sequence exploring the fundamental behavior of chemical systems in terms of the physical principles which govern their behavior. The specific focus is on classical thermodynamics, statistical mechanics, and kinetics as applied to chemical systems from both a macroscopic and microscopic perspective. Meets three hours per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 126 or 140. *Pre- or corequisite:* Mathematics 225 or consent of the instructor. Chemistry 345 and either one year of high school physics or one semester of college-level physics is strongly recommended.

**352 Physical Chemistry Lab****Spring****Hendricks****1 credit**

A physical chemistry laboratory exploring the topics covered in the physical chemistry lecture sequence in addition to other areas of physical chemistry. Connections between physical chemistry and other subfields of chemistry will be highlighted through experiments related to spectroscopy, thermodynamics, and/or reaction kinetics. Experimental design will be considered in depth, and the course will emphasize critical engagement with the scientific literature and formal scientific writing. One three-hour laboratory per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 345. *Pre- or corequisite:* Chemistry 346. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

**360 Inorganic Chemistry****Fall****Machonkin****3 credits**

This course will explore the fundamentals of chemical bonding, both in main group compounds and transition metal complexes. The first half of the course will begin with atomic theory, then move to molecular orbital theory for diatomic molecules, group theory, and molecular orbital theory for polyatomic molecules. The second half, the course will cover the bonding, spectroscopy, and reactivity of transition metal complexes. Three lectures per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 345.

**370 Advanced Methods in Inorganic and Organic Synthesis and Characterization****Fall****Machonkin****2 credits**

This is an advanced laboratory course that combines both organic and inorganic synthesis with physical methods of characterization. A large portion of this course is an independent project chosen and developed by students within a specific theme. Two three- to four-hour laboratories per week. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 246, 252, and 345. *Prerequisite (recommended) or corequisite:* Chemistry 360. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

**388 Environmental Chemistry and Engineering****Fall****Boland****4 credits**

This course will examine (1) the basic chemistry associated with pollutant fate and transport modeling in environmental media, especially acid-base, oxidation/reduction, solubility, speciation, and sorption reactions, (2) basic physical concepts for modeling the fate and transport of pollutants in environmental media, and (3) pollutant risk assessment based on humans as receptors. Additional topics might include major U.S. environmental laws, global environmental issues (e.g., global warming and stratospheric ozone depletion), and selected scientific articles. The laboratory portion will concentrate on pollutant monitoring and chemical aspects of pollutants, measuring dispersion and pollutant transport in small-scale systems, and data analysis. Three lectures, one three- to four-hour laboratory per week, and one weekend field monitoring trip to the Johnston Wilderness Campus. *Prerequisites:* a good working knowledge of basic algebra (rearrangement of complicated equations and use of exponential functions); Chemistry 126 or 140. Offered in alternate years. There is a mandatory overnight field trip at the end of the semester. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

**390 Student Research****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-3 credits**

This course will give students who have not yet reached senior status an opportunity to participate in research with faculty in the chemistry department. The research will involve laboratory work on original projects under the supervision of a member of the chemistry department. The student must select a supervising faculty member and project before registering for the course. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits. *Prerequisites:* Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140; and consent of instructor.

**401, 402 Chemistry Seminar****Fall, Spring****D. Biswas****1 credit**

This course will consist primarily of research presentations by scientists from colleges, universities, government labs, and industry. Presentations will span a range of areas of chemistry (organic, inorganic, physical, analytical, biological) and related disciplines (such as structural biology, materials science, and environmental science).



Students will learn to engage with scientific literature by reading primary literature articles authored by the presenters, writing response papers, participating in follow-up discussion with the presenters during the seminar. There will be periodic workshops on critical reading, critical writing and ethics in science. Evaluation is based on attendance, response papers, and participation in the question-and-answer portion of the seminars and in the workshops. Enrollment is limited to juniors and seniors. May be repeated for a maximum of four credits. *Note:* May not be applied to the Chemistry minor.

### **425 Computational Biochemistry**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**2 credits**

An introductory survey of theories/simulations of proteins will be covered in this course. Topics will include molecular mechanics, molecular dynamics, de novo protein design, integrated quantum and molecular mechanics, and docking small molecules onto proteins for pharmaceutical drug design. This course will attempt to cultivate computational skills necessary to tackle current scientific problems at the interface of chemistry and biology with an emphasis on graphical visualization and data analysis. A combination of lecture and hands-on tutorials will be offered during the class, which are expected to improve the students' ability to generate biochemical models essential for understanding the structure and functions of proteins. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 246. *Corequisite:* BBMB 325.

### **447 Physical Organic Chemistry**

**Spring**

**M. Juhasz**

**3 credits**

This course will address the quantitative and qualitative study of organic molecules and reactions. Topics to be addressed include thermodynamics, molecular orbital theory, stereochemistry, aromaticity, pericyclic reactions, and reaction mechanisms. The experimental and theoretical methods for elucidating organic reactions will be a major theme of this course. A survey of techniques for studying carbocations will explore methods developed for studying elusive reaction intermediates. Student-led discussion and presentations of readings from the primary chemical literature will be a significant component of this course. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 246.

### **451, 452 Independent Study**

**Fall, Spring**

**Staff**

**1-3 credits**

An advanced laboratory project or a directed reading project selected by the student in consultation with the staff and supervised by the staff member best qualified for the area of study. For a laboratory project, a written report reflecting the library and laboratory work carried out is required. The student must select a supervising staff member and obtain approval for a project prior to registration. If any part of the project involves off-campus work, the student must consult with the department chair for approval before beginning the project. Each credit of independent study laboratory work corresponds to one afternoon of work per week. A maximum of three credits may be counted toward degree requirements. *Prerequisites:* two years of college chemistry and consent of instructor.

### **460 Bioinorganic Chemistry**

**Not offered 2023-24**

**3 credits**

This course will examine the role of trace metal ions in biological systems. Metal ions such as iron, copper, and zinc are essential for life and are required for the function of about one-third of all known enzymes. However, the inherent toxicity of these metals has led to the evolution of cellular machinery to control the uptake, transport, storage, and distribution of trace metals in organisms. This toxicity also has been exploited in the development of several metal-based drugs. The challenges of understanding the roles of trace metals in biological systems have led to the development of novel techniques for their study. The course will survey a selection of these methods, and will examine case studies of metal-containing enzymes, metal ion trafficking, and metal-based drugs. A major portion of this course will be student-led literature reviews, presentations, and discussion of these topics. *Prerequisite:* Chemistry 360 or BBMB 325 or consent of instructor.

**481, 482 Advanced Topics in Chemistry****1-3 credits**

A detailed study of specialized subjects such as organic qualitative analysis, conformational analysis, natural products, quantum chemistry, chemical kinetics, protein structure and function, physical biochemistry, and spectroscopy. *Prerequisite:* two years of college chemistry. Any current offerings follow.

**490 Senior Thesis****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-3 credits**

Research and writing of the senior thesis, which is based on work from two consecutive semesters, or a summer internship and a subsequent semester. The research may involve experimental or theoretical work on original projects, the critical analysis of primary literature, or the development of instructional laboratory exercises. The student must select a faculty member as thesis advisor and get consent for a project before registration. A final written thesis and a public presentation is required. Open to seniors only. *Prerequisites:* two years of college chemistry and consent of instructor.

**498 Honors Thesis****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-3 credits**

All students will register for 1-3 credits of Chemistry 490. For students who have met the requirements for Honors in Chemistry, the registration in their final semester will be changed to Chemistry 498 to designate this. Students must have completed at least 1 credit of Chemistry 490 in the previous semester. Students must complete an honors thesis and submit this to the Library by no later than reading day. Requirements for the honors thesis are provided on the Library website. Students should consult with their research advisor for additional requirements and advice on preparation of the thesis. A seminar presentation on the project is also required. *Prerequisite:* senior standing.