

Hello chemistry and biochemistry students!

The faculty and staff in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry have been working hard to plan for what is sure to be a new academic experience for all of us. We have received many questions from students seeking information as they plan for the fall semester. We have therefore compiled, are now sharing, the information in this document. We plan to put together a more comprehensive document that will include things like protocols for working in each laboratory, but we prioritized sharing quickly the information contained in this document because it may help you all plan for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Course Schedule and Formats

First a few reminders about the modified schedule, and some explanations of the codes used in the table below to convey the information in a compact format. The fall semester will be split into two 7 ½ week “modules.” The first fall module, beginning in September, is called A; the second module will begin after a brief mid-semester break and called B. During each module students will typically enroll in two courses, and each course will cover material in 7 ½ weeks that would normally be discussed over a full-length semester. The academic pace will therefore be roughly double what we are all used to, but the number of courses we participate in at one time will be cut in half.

The five weekdays, Monday through Friday, are coded MTWRF. There will be two time-blocks during the morning of each day, and another two in the afternoon. Labs will operate on a somewhat different system, and those details are spelled out in the table below. Also, there is an evening block but at the moment our department is not planning to offer courses in the evenings.

The college has asked us to designate whether our courses will be conducted in-person (with the now-usual social distancing and mask wearing), remotely (via Zoom, for example), or a blend of the two (called “mixed” in the table). These designations are based on the information we have now, in mid-July, and we intend to stick to these plans if conditions allow. It probably goes without saying that none of us know what August and subsequent months will bring, so conditions may force us to adjust the plans laid out here.

The winter semester’s structure will mimic that of the fall, but we are currently focused on course planning for the fall, so this document focuses mainly on the two fall modules, A and B.

Course number	Module	Time	Instructor	Format	Comment
107	A	<u>Lecture:</u> 10-11:30 AM MTWRF (Time slot B) <u>Lab:</u> 8-9:30 AM MW or TR (Time slot A)	Schlax	Mixed or, if possible, in person.	In-person as much as possible. However, due to class size and rooms, some work will be done remotely (synchronous and asynchronous). Cannot know until enrollment and classroom assignments are made. Group work will be facilitated through computer programs.
107	A	<u>Lecture:</u> 8-9:30 AM MTWRF (Time slot A) <u>Lab:</u> 10-11:30 AM MW or TR (Time slot B)	O'Loughlin	Mixed	In-person as much as possible. However, due to class size and rooms, some work will be done remotely. Most likely there will be some videos to watch before coming to class and in-class time will revolve around group work (socially distanced), problem solving, and re-emphasizing core concepts. Classroom capture will be used for students who cannot be in person/join via synchronous zoom. Exact details cannot know until enrollment and classroom assignments are made. Remote students should contact me as soon as possible to discuss best options.
107	B		Sommer	Mixed	This will depend on the classroom size and some other factors that need to be determined. It is safe to say that I will try to make this as much of an in-person experience as I can!
107	B		Tate	Mixed	I'm planning a flipped-classroom approach. Lectures are asynchronous and are delivered online as short videos, while face-to-face meetings focus on problem solving, discussion, and (socially distanced) group work. Attendance at the face-to-face component is optional, and alternative online assignments are provided for those who do not attend face-to-face. My hope is that the course is fully accessible to students who engage only online and do not attend in person.
212	A	Lecture: MWF, 12:45-2:15 Lab: TR, 1:05-4:00	Sommer	Mixed	The "lecture" portion is not a problem and is likely to be in-person; the lab portion poses some issues. I hope to do as much lab in-person as possible but the details have not been ironed out.

217	A	MTWRF 12:30-1:45	Koviach- Côté	In-person	In-person as much as possible, depending on the assigned classroom. Students will work synchronously during class according to social distancing guidelines. There will likely be asynchronous videos required before each class. Classroom capture and zoom will be provided for students off campus, but students studying virtually should contact me as soon as possible to discuss the best options for them.
217 Lab	A	MTWR(F) 2:00-4:30	Clark, Kennedy, Koviach- Côté	Mixed	Each student will attend one lab section per week for five weeks. Students who cannot attend in-person labs will participate through asynchronous lab videos. There will also be 3-4 asynchronous virtual lab experiences for all students.
217	B	MTWRF 12:30-1:45	Kennedy	In-person	Most content will be presented in-person. Virtual students will zoom into class meetings synchronously, where they will be able to post questions in real time similarly to students present in the room. Supplemental content and review will be presented in asynchronously through videos.
301	B	MTRF 10:15- 11:45	Côté	In-person	All scheduled class meetings are planned to be conducted in-person
337	B	MTRF 3-4:30 PM (Time slot D)	O'Loughlin	Mixed	In-person as much as possible. However, due to class size and rooms, some work will be done remotely. Most likely there will be some videos to watch before coming to class and in-class time will revolve around group work (socially distanced), problem solving, and re-emphasizing core concepts. Classroom capture will be used for students who cannot be in person/join via synchronous zoom. Exact details cannot know until enrollment and classroom assignments are made. Remote students should contact me as soon as possible to discuss best options.
310	B	MTWRF 12:45-2:15 (Time slot C)	Schlax	In Person	All scheduled class meetings are planned to be conducted in-person. Computers will be used in class to facilitate group work.

321	A	MTWRF 12:30 - 4:30 Time slot (C+D), combined with G	Lawson	In Person	All scheduled class and lab meetings will be in person, with lecture meeting 12:30 - 1:50 and labs meeting 2:00 - 4:30. Lab will be divided into four or five sections, depending upon enrollment, with each section meeting once per week. (One week of lab will be virtual.) Paula has two of the sections.
325	B	MTRF 8:00- 9:45	Koviach- Côté	In Person	Note: only one section will be offered. Students who enrolled in Chem 325 in March are encouraged to consider Chem 337 (Natural Products and Drug Discovery) as an alternative. All scheduled class meetings are planned to be conducted in-person. Students will work synchronously during class according to social distancing guidelines.

Theses

Individual thesis advisors will establish schedules and protocols that fit their own thesis programs. Feel free to contact your thesis advisor if you have questions after hearing from your advisor.

We regret that we will be unable to offer honors theses in chemistry and biochemistry during the 2020-2021 academic year. Because of restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, many research labs will be unable to support enough laboratory time to constitute an honors thesis experience. The department decided it is important for students in all labs to be treated equitably, and so we made the difficult decision to eliminate honors theses for this academic year.

Plan for Daily Operations

To minimize the risk of Covid-19 transmission, the department has adopted a rule against unscheduled student drop-by visits to faculty offices. Individual faculty may schedule meetings with students, in faculty offices or elsewhere, but we ask students not to spontaneously visit faculty offices without an invitation. We have scheduled our courses to maximize opportunities for student-faculty interactions, within the constraints imposed upon all of us, so please take full advantage of face-to-face opportunities to speak with faculty during scheduled class times. To communicate with faculty outside of classes, please make arrangements ahead of time.