Honours Coursework, Organic Chemistry 2008

General Aim

The chemical literature is the foundation upon which our discipline grows. An ability to survey, comprehend and critically evaluate the chemical literature will be of enormous importance for your honours research this year and stand you in good stead for the rest of your career in chemistry.

The goal of the Honours Coursework in Organic Chemistry is to develop your skills for analysing the chemical literature effectively.

Assignment

Each student will be provided with one assignment topic per semester. This will consist of a short review article or paper from a journal. Your aim will be to summarise the paper and evaluate its content. The publication provided should be a starting point for more detailed reading in the area that will inform you of the significance of the paper (ie. why is it important?) and background details (ie. what has been done in the past?). Your understanding of the topic will be assessed by a written submission and a short oral presentation.

The **written** submission will be a maximum of 3 pages in length and require you to cover areas such as the goals of the work, the background to the study and how the chemistry works. There is an emphasis on mechanistic understanding. The submissions will be assessed by representatives of the 5th floor staff and returned to you with comments prior to your oral presentation. Marks will be awarded for aspects such as understanding of the topic, logic and clarity of presentation and depth of discussion.

The **oral** presentations will be held during the regular Organic Seminar/Problem sessions 10 am, Thursday mornings. Your talk will follow the same general format as the submission and will be of 6-8 minutes duration followed by 3-5 minutes for questions. The oral presentations will be assessed by 5th floor academic staff and marks will be awarded on a similar basis to that mentioned for the written submission, together with overall structure of the talk and quality of your answers to any questions posed. The weighting for all written submissions and oral presentations are equal, and in total worth 10% of your final honours mark.

Each student will work on a different topic and will work independently. As written submissions and oral presentations are part of your overall honours assessment, students must work independently and without assistance from supervisors, co-workers or colleagues. Any further questions about the Honours Coursework in Organic Chemistry should be directed to Mat Todd.

Timetable

Semester 2 written submission	submit to MHT by 4 pm 11th September
Semester 2 oral presentations	held on 18th and 25th September

Contact

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