CHEM 281/282 – Summary Sheet

Syllabus
• Online Assignments (5%)
• Midterm 1 (15%)
• Midterm 2 (25%)
• Final Exam (45%)
• Virtual Lab Exams (10%)

Exam Format
• Multiple Choice
• Short Answer

How to Study for the Exam
• Practice drawing out structures and mechanisms.
• Flashcards for common structures and names.
• Grouping similar reagents and/or products can be helpful to ensure you can make the distinction between them on the exam.
• Set yourself aside enough time to create a summary sheet for yourself.
  • This can help you revise what you need to know but also can help you make connections between course content.
• Study groups!
  • Having peers explain concepts in different terms can be extremely beneficial.
• Create a list of common polar and nonpolar compounds.
• Creating a flowchart for isomers can be helpful!
• Compare and contrast SN1, SN2, E1, and E2 reactions.

Practice Questions & Study Resources
• In-class examples
• Past Wiley Assignments (old homework)
• Past midterms
• Exam Bank for old finals
• Textbook

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Pitfalls</th>
<th>How To Avoid Them</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studying last minute</td>
<td>• Create a study schedule and be reasonable!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Schedule yourself some time where you are able to catch-up, just in case you fall behind!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Make sure you also schedule time for breaks!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of practice</td>
<td>• Summarize what practice problems you know you definitely want to cover.</td>
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<td>• Schedule practice days into your study schedule!</td>
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<td>• Compare your solutions to practice problems with peers if no solutions are provided.</td>
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Confusing similar reagents, products, and/or reactions

| Tables can be really useful for comparing and contrasting these types of things! |

Resources for Further Help & Studying
- Office hours!
  - Go prepared with specific questions and/or have a solution to a practice problem and ask them to mark it for you to see how you would do. This can be a great way to avoid making small mistakes on your exam!
- Refer to the textbook
  - This is a great resource that can provide clarification or be used for extra practice problems.
- Post and/or read questions (and responses) on the Discussion page on onQ

Tips for Next Semester & Going Forward
- Focus on understanding, not memorizing… don't just know what happens, but try to ask yourself why or how something happens!
- Create a table of all the mechanisms you are learning as the semester progresses.
  - Possible columns could include: reactants, conditions, products, and mechanism)
  - Take this one step further and try to categorize the different types of mechanisms.
  - Like making tables? Make one for protecting groups as well!