

Chemistry 3371F - Transition Metal Chemistry (Fall 2025 Course Outline)

1. Course Information

Description: The study of the effects of the electronic structure of transition metals on their properties, including coordination chemistry, electronic spectra, magnetic properties, and reactions. Introduction to organometallic chemistry. The laboratory experiments aim to illustrate and amplify concepts discussed in the lectures.

Course prerequisites: Chemistry 2271 and 2281.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Chemistry to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(e-mail messages *must* be from your @uwo.ca account)

Office hours:

By appointment

Course Web Page:

OWL Brightspace

Course Schedule:

Lectures

[REDACTED] || [REDACTED]

Laboratory (one of)

[REDACTED] || [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The general schedule for the experiments is given on page 3 of this handout.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Course-Based Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of Chem 3371F, students will be able to....

- (i) apply their understanding of inorganic nomenclature to describe a range of transition metal complexes.
- (ii) use their knowledge of common structural properties of coordination compounds (such as coordination numbers, stereochemistry, isomerism) to rationalize factors influencing the stability and reactivity of transition metal complexes.
- (iii) interpret and predict the physical and chemical properties of transition metal complexes in terms of their electronic structure and the bonding theories typically used to describe them.
- (iv) use their knowledge of structure and bonding properties of transition metal organometallic complexes to predict and rationalize their properties and reactivity.
- (v) conduct laboratory experiments safely and evaluate the potential impact transition metal chemistry may have on society, health, and the environment.
- (vi) prepare logical, organized, and concise written reports describing their experimental results in the areas of the synthesis and characterization of transition metal complexes.

Chemistry 3371F Syllabus Fall 2025:

The topics likely to be covered are outlined in the section below. The order of presentation and the number of lectures devoted to each are approximate.

i. Tentative Course Outline

- (a) Periodic Table, electronic configurations, d-block elements: the open d-shell (1–2 lectures)
- (b) Coordination Chemistry: nomenclature, terms, and examples (2–3 lectures)
- (c) Coordination numbers, stereochemistry, and isomerism (3–4 lectures)
- (d) Formation equilibria for complexes (1–2 lectures)
- (e) Crystal field theory: spectral properties (4–5 lectures)
- (f) Ligand field theory and Molecular Orbital theory of complexes (5–6 lectures)
- (g) More of spectroscopic properties (1–2 lectures)
- (h) Mechanisms of substitution (2–3 lectures)
- (i) Organometallic chemistry (4–5 lectures)

ii. Laboratory Experiments

The laboratory component of the course is intended to augment the lecture course by providing experimental examples to illustrate general principles. It is also intended to teach experimental techniques that are commonly used in inorganic chemistry. Labs begin the week of September 15, 2025.

A lab report must be submitted for each experiment (details are provided in the 3371F lab manual). This will either be in the form of a formal, written report or data sheet format. You will be given your individual

schedule during the first week of classes (not everyone performs the same experiment the same week). Important pre-lab information is available on the course OWL page for most experiments.

To help you find the hazards/safety information for the reagents that you will be using in the lab the following online resources will help you:

<https://www.uwo.ca/hr/safety/topics/sds.html>

Laboratory Teaching Assistants: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In order to maintain consistency across the entire course, please contact [REDACTED] (lead TA) with lab-related questions prior to contacting [REDACTED] or the other TAs. *All correspondence to TAs must be from your @uwo.ca email account.*

iii. Laboratory Schedule*

Week of...

Sept 15	Experiment 1
Sept 22	Experiment 2
Sept 29	No labs
Oct 6	Experiment 2, continued
Oct 13	Experiment 3
Oct 20	LAB REPORTS DUE: Expt. 1 (Formal Report) & Expt. 2 (Data Sheet)
Oct 20	Experiment 4
Oct 27	Experiment 5a
Nov 3	Reading Week – no labs
Nov 10	LAB REPORTS DUE: Expt. 3 (Data Sheet) & Expt. 4 (Data Sheet)
Nov 10	Experiment 5b & 6
Nov 17	Experiment 5b & 6
Nov 24	No labs – Presentations.
Dec 1	LAB REPORTS DUE: Expt. 5 (Formal Report) & Expt. 6 (Data Sheet)

*Note - Formal Reports and data sheets must be submitted electronically via Gradescope before midnight on the day of your lab section the week that they are due.

iv. Short Formal Presentation

Must be PowerPoint/Keynote or similar. Everyone will have a 10-minute slot. Presentations should be 5–7 minutes max. You will be interrupted and cut off after 7 minutes. Your presentation will be followed by questions from the TAs and/or [REDACTED]. Scheduling details and presentation tips will be communicated via OWL in early November.

Topic choices include but are not limited to:

Metal-metal quintuple bonds, photonic ink, ferredoxins, redox active ligands, coordination polymers, side chain cobaltocenium polymers, complexes with $CN > 6$, non 18-electron complexes (*e.g.*, 14, 16, 17, 19 electrons), IR of nitrile vs. isonitrile complexes, agostic interactions, 1H NMR spectroscopy of Pt hydride complexes, linkage isomers, cool example of Δ/Λ complexes, cis-platin, $K_2Cr_2O_7$ in breathalysers, FLP chemistry, MO diagrams for tbp complexes with good examples...or anything you chose, **but this must be approved by [REDACTED]**.

***Topics must be submitted and approved by [REDACTED] by the end of the day on Sunday, Nov 9. A 10% per day penalty on the presentation will apply for every day late on topic submission/approval.**

v. Important Dates

Classes begin: Sept 4, 2025

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no class): Sept 30, 2025

Reading Week: Nov 3 – Nov 9, 2025

Classes end: Dec 9, 2025

4. Course Materials

Course Text: Inorganic Chemistry, 5th Edition (Miessler, Fischer, and Tarr). NOTE: this is the textbook you used in Chem 2271 and 2281. If you require a copy, this book is available for purchase at the [UWO Campus Bookstore](#). Second hand copies are also generally available and don't forget to check the library!

Lab Manual: Chemistry 3371F Laboratory Manual Fall 2025 Edition. This is required and can be purchased from the [UWO Campus Bookstore](#).

Safety glasses and lab coats are required at all times when working in the laboratory. The UWO Undergraduate Chemistry Society sells these at the beginning of term should you require a pair. Students who normally wear prescription glasses must wear safety glasses or goggles over their regular glasses.

A **Hayden-McNeil Organic Chemistry Laboratory Notebook with Carbon Copy** is required for recording all data and observations in the laboratory. This can be used for more than one (not concurrent) course.

Use of electronic devices: Only basic scientific calculators are permitted on all tests and exams. All other electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, cameras, etc.) are prohibited. Students found in possession of prohibited devices will receive a mark of ZERO for the entire test or exam.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Term Test #1		10%
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*Term Test #2		15%
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*NOTE: Although the focus of this test will be primarily on material following the first term test, you should consider Term Test #2 cumulative.

Final Exam (3 hours; cumulative) (December examination period – date and time to be set by the Registrar)	36%
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Quizzes (× 3) (3% each –)	9%
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**Counted only if higher grade than final exam, please see section 6 for details.

Laboratory Component (Total 250 marks, see lab manual for details)	25%
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5–7 minute oral presentation (graded by TAs and/or)	5%
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By taking this course you agree to abide by the applicable rules and policies detailed below.

Policy on Late Submissions: Laboratory reports handed in late will receive a penalty of 10% per day, with the weekend counting as two days. Academic considerations will only be given to students who get the required approval from the academic counsellors in the Faculty of Science. Graded reports will be returned no sooner than 7 days after the due date. No late lab report submissions can be accepted after the graded reports have been returned, whether you received a deadline extension or not. If your academic accommodation for a missed lab report extends beyond the date that graded reports are returned, you will have to apply for a grade of INC and submit the missed lab report the next time the course is offered. Alternatively, you may choose to accept a mark of ZERO for the missed work.

Course Attendance: Course attendance is mandatory for Chem 3371F. Information missed due to absences will not be the grounds for academic appeal.

Evaluated Materials: All work submitted for a grade in this course must be your personal work (or yours and a team member as appropriate), use of answers obtained externally is prohibited.

Conditions required to pass the course: The labs and assignments are essential components of this course. You must attend and complete reports for at least 4 out of the 6 labs, write at least one of the two midterm tests, and write the final exam to pass this course. In addition, you must achieve a grade of at least 50% for both the laboratory component and the combined marks for the term tests, quizzes, oral presentation, and final examination. Students who fail to meet any of these requirements, whether excused or not, will receive a final grade of not greater than 40%, even if the calculated grade is higher. Exception: Students who, for medical or compassionate reasons, have been granted Incomplete Standing (INC grade) by the Dean's Office will be required to complete the missed work the next time the course is offered.

Problem Sets: Several problem sets will be assigned during the term. No marks are assigned to these problem sets.

6. Missed Work

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation: Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (final examination).

When a student mistakenly submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with Assessment Flexibility** section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Work

*Indicates that a request for Academic Consideration is required.

Quizzes: Students who miss a quiz for any reason do not need to apply for academic consideration or even contact the instructor. As an incentive for writing the quizzes, only the quizzes with a percent mark higher than that of the final exam will be counted at 3% each, while the weight of all other (written or missed) quizzes will be transferred to the final exam.

***Lab Reports:** If a lab report is missed for valid reasons, the weighting of the lab report will be transferred to the corresponding portion of the course (*i.e.*, the total for the lab).

***Presentation:** If the presentation is missed for valid reasons, the weighting will be transferred to the final exam.

***Midterm Tests:** If a midterm test is missed for valid reasons, the weighting of the test will be transferred to the final examination. For those students who cannot write the midterm test on the date indicated because of religious or class conflicts, please contact [REDACTED] immediately.

***Final Exam:** If you miss the final exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (*e.g.*, more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

7. Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation: When conflicts arise with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible, but not later than two weeks prior to the writing of the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university’s EDID website for the recognized religious holidays - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

Academic Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

General Academic Policies: The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief: Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):
https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

Scholastic Offences:

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments: In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones. Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a *scholastic offence*, even if the device is not in use. Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools: Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is not permitted in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a scholastic offence.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

Support Services: Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, you may also wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.