

# CEIC8105

Advanced Polymer Science and Research

Term 1, 2023



## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

| Name           | Email  | Availability        | Location   | Phone    |
|----------------|--|---------------------|------------|----------|
| Per Zetterlund | <a href="mailto:p.zetterlund@unsw.edu.au">p.zetterlund@unsw.edu.au</a> | Available via email | Kensington | 93854331 |

#### Lecturers

| Name                | Email  | Availability        | Location   | Phone        |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Cyrille Boyer       | <a href="mailto:cboyer@unsw.edu.au">cboyer@unsw.edu.au</a> | Available via email | Kensington | 0401 600 607 |
| Jiangtao (Jason) Xu | <a href="mailto:j.xu@unsw.edu.au">j.xu@unsw.edu.au</a>     | Available via email | Kensington | 93854324     |

### School Contact Information

For assistance with enrolment, class registration, progression checks and other administrative matters, please see [the Nucleus: Student Hub](#). They are located inside the Library – first right as you enter the main library entrance. You can also contact them via <http://unsw.to/webforms> or reserve a place in the face-to-face queue using the UniVerse app.

If circumstances outside your control impact on submitting assessments, Special Consideration may be granted, usually in the form of an extension or a supplementary assessment. Applications for Special Consideration must be submitted [online](#).

For course administration matters, please contact the Course Coordinator.

Questions about the this course should normally be asked during the scheduled class so that everyone can benefit from the answer and discussion.

## Course Details

### Units of Credit 6

### Summary of the Course

In this course, you will explore exciting macromolecular chemistry in a range of selected cutting edge research fields. Forget packaging and injection moulded products, today's chemical engineers and chemists are developing amazing applications of polymer science. These new polymers and complex macro molecules, among others, find applications in food and health, water treatment and renewable energy. This course will build on basic knowledge of polymers (from CEIC8104 or similar courses) and discuss the latest developments in polymer science, with a strong focus on polymer chemistry and polymer synthesis.

A particular focus will be Controlled/living radical polymerisation techniques (NMP, ATRP, RAFT), which allow precise synthesis of advanced macromolecular structures and functional polymeric materials, are discussed at length, including their implementation in dispersed systems (emulsion etc).

This course is helpful for students undertaking research in polymer science at a postgraduate level.

### Course Aims

This course will introduce students to advanced methods of polymer synthesis, highlighting how precise control of polymer structure can be employed to generate advanced materials and products. The students will gain familiarity with common methods of polymer synthesis, with a strong focus on radical polymerization methods for precise polymer design. The course also places emphasis on self-assembly of polymers into advanced materials.

The course builds upon and further develops the concepts covered in CEIC8104. The course is particularly suited for students with an interest in polymer research.

### Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

| Learning Outcome   | EA Stage 1 Competencies                  |
|--|--|
| 1. Compare modern approaches for synthesis of advanced polymer structures and polymeric nanoparticles, with an emphasis on controlled/living radical polymerisation techniques.  | PE1.3, PE2.1, PE2.2                      |
| 2. Evaluate synthetic strategies in terms of the feasibility of the reaction, and the strengths or weaknesses of the techniques chosen.  | PE1.1, PE1.3, PE2.2                      |
| 3. Assess the latest literature in polymer chemistry to compare different approaches and critically evaluate different techniques for both synthesis and characterisation of polymer systems, communicating this critique to experts in the field. | PE1.3, PE1.4, PE3.2, PE3.3, PE3.4, PE3.6 |

| Learning Outcome   | EA Stage 1 Competencies                  |
|--|--|
| 4. Develop synthetic strategies to produce new polymeric materials, applying the knowledge of modern polymer synthetic techniques to new problems. | PE1.1, PE1.3, PE1.5, PE2.1, PE3.3, PE3.4 |

## Teaching Strategies

The class time is divided into two types of activities:

1. Traditional lectures, where the lecturer will explain the material using power point slides and the whiteboard. The lecturers will also cover tutorial-style problems to allow you to further develop your problem-solving skills in this area. The slides will be available in Moodle.
2. Student presentations. You will be divided into groups, and each group will be given the task to summarize and present a research paper from a scientific journal. Each group will give such presentations three times during the course, each presentation being followed by an extensive Q&A session. Questions will be asked by the lecturer as well as by fellow students from other groups.

## Additional Course Information

- Attend all lectures and student presentations, and ask questions whenever anything is unclear
- Participate actively in the student presentations (and the work that is required preparing these presentations) and engage during the Q&A sessions.
- Download power point presentations from Moodle and study these independently

## Assessment

The student presentations will be given in groups of students. Individual contributions will be assessed via a Group Contribution Sheet (Team Evaluation Statement).

There will be no assessments in Flex Week (Week 6).

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date            | Course Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|-----------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Presentation | 45%    | 02/03/2022 11:59 PM | 2, 3, 4                           |
| 2. Final Exam   | 55%    | Exam Period         | 1, 2, 3, 4                        |

### Assessment 1: Presentation

**Submission notes:** Student presentations take place Weeks 3, 7 and 10

**Due date:** 02/03/2022 11:59 PM

This assessments include 3 presentations each having a weight of 15%.

The students are given scientific publications on topics covered in the lectures. The work will be carried out in small groups. The students are required to prepare a presentation of the content of the publication (3 presentations throughout the course). The students will be assessed on:

- a) Presentation (content of slides, style)
- b) Understanding of the content
- c) Critical evaluation of the publication
- d) Student marks will be peer moderated

### Assessment 2: Final Exam

**Due date:** Exam Period

The final exam will be undertaken in-person and will take place during the exam period. The exam will cover all material covered in the course with a focus on understanding rather than memorization.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

| Date                              | Type     | Content  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| Week 1: 13 February - 17 February | Lecture  | Fundamentals of controlled/living radical polymerization   |
| Week 2: 20 February - 24 February | Lecture  | Radical polymerization in dispersed systems (conventional radical polymerization and controlled/living radical polymerization) |
| Week 3: 27 February - 3 March     | Seminar  | Student presentations including Q&A.   |
| Week 4: 6 March - 10 March        | Lecture  | Degenerative chain transfer and polymer conjugation  |
| Week 5: 13 March - 17 March       | Lecture  | Degenerative chain transfer and polymer conjugation  |
| Week 6: 20 March - 24 March       | Homework | FLEXIBILITY WEEK (no classes). Please feel free to use this week to catch up on any outstanding course content or assessment.  |
| Week 7: 27 March - 31 March       | Seminar  | Student presentations and Q&A.   |
| Week 8: 3 April - 7 April         | Lecture  | Block copolymer self-assembly (incl. polymerization-induced self-assembly).  |
| Week 9: 10 April - 14 April       | Lecture  | Block copolymer self-assembly (incl. polymerization-induced self-assembly)   |
| Week 10: 17 April - 21 April      | Seminar  | Student presentations and Q&A  |

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

In the School of Chemical Engineering, all written work will be submitted for assessment via Moodle unless otherwise specified. Attaching cover sheets to uploaded work is not required unless specifically requested for an individual assessment task; when you submit work through Moodle for assessment you are agreeing to uphold the Student Code.

Some assessments will require you to complete the work online and it may be difficult for the course coordinator to intervene in the system after the due date. You should ensure that you are familiar with assessment systems well before the due date. If you do this, you will have time to get assistance before the assessment closes.

All submissions are expected to be neat and clearly set out. Your results are the pinnacle of all your hard work and should be treated with respect. Presenting results clearly gives the marker the best chance of understanding your method; even if the numerical results are incorrect. Please make it easy for the markers who are looking at your work to see your achievement and give you due credit.

Marking guidelines for assignment submissions will be provided at the same time as assignment details to assist with meeting assessable requirements. Submissions will be marked according to the marking guidelines provided.

### Late penalties

Unless otherwise specified, submissions received after the due date and time will be penalised at a rate of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) and will not be accepted more than 5 days late. For some activities including Exams, Quizzes, Peer Feedback, and Team Evaluation surveys, extensions and late submissions are not possible.

### Special consideration

If you have experienced an illness or misadventure beyond your control that will interfere with your assessment performance, you are eligible to apply for Special Consideration prior to submitting an assessment or sitting an exam.

UNSW has a [Fit to Sit / Submit rule](#), which means that if you attempt an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit enough to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

For details of applying for Special Consideration and conditions for the award of supplementary assessment, please see the information on UNSW's [Special Consideration page](#).

**Please note** that for **all** special consideration requests (including COVID-19-related requests), students will need documentary evidence to support absences from any classes or assessments.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013). At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and plagiarism can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#)
- The [ELISE training site](#)

The Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

To help describe what we are looking for, here are some things that we consider to be quite acceptable (even desirable!) actions for many assessments, and some that we consider to be unacceptable in most circumstances. Please check with the instructions for your assessments and your course coordinator if you're unsure. As a rule of thumb, if you don't think you could look the lecturer in the eye and say "this is my own work", then it's not acceptable.

| Acceptable actions  | Unacceptable actions   |
|---|--|
| ✓ reading/searching through material we have given you, including lecture slides, course notes, sample problems, workshop problem solutions | ✗ asking for help with an assessment from other students, friends, family                  |
| ✓ reading/searching lecture transcripts   | ✗ asking for help on Q&A or homework help websites   |
| ✓ reading/searching resources that we have pointed you to as part of this course, including textbooks, journal articles, websites           | ✗ searching for answers to the specific assessment questions online or in shared documents |
| ✓ reading/searching through your own notes for this course  | ✗ copying material from any source into your answers                                       |
| ✓ all of the above, for any previous courses  | ✗ using generative AI tools to complete or substantially complete an assessment for you    |
| ✓ using spell checkers, grammar checkers etc to improve the quality of your writing   | ✗ paying someone else to do the assessment for you   |
| ✓ studying course material with other students  |  |

**Referencing** is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism. Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>.

For assessments in the School of Chemical Engineering, we recommend the use of referencing software such as [Mendeley](#) or [EndNote](#) for managing references and citations. Unless required otherwise



specified (i.e. in the assignment instructions) students in the School of Chemical Engineering should use either the APA 7th edition, or the American Chemical Society (ACS) referencing style as canonical author-date and numbered styles respectively.

**Artificial intelligence tools** such as ChatGPT, CodePilot, and built-in tools within Word are modern tools that are useful in some circumstances. In your degree at UNSW, we're teaching you skills that are needed for your professional life, which will include how to use AI tools responsibly plus lots of things that AI tools cannot do for you. AI tools already are (or will soon be) part of professional practice for all of us. However, if we were only teaching you things that AI could do, your degree would be worthless, and you wouldn't have a job in 5 years.

Whether the use of AI tools in an assessment is appropriate will depend on the goals of that assessment. As ever, you should discuss this with your lecturers – there will certainly be assessments where the use of AI tools is encouraged, as well as others where it would interfere with your learning and place you at a disadvantage later. Our goal is to help you learn how to ethically and professionally use the tools available to you. To learn more about the use of AI, [see this discussion we have written](#) where we analyse the strengths and weaknesses of generative AI tools and discuss when it is professionally and ethically appropriate to use them.

While AI may provide useful tools to help with some assessments, UNSW's policy is quite clear that taking the output of generative AI and submitting it as your own work will never be appropriate, just as paying someone else to complete an assessment for you is serious misconduct.

## Academic Information

To help you plan your degree, assistance is available from academic advisors in [The Nucleus](#) and also in the [School of Chemical Engineering](#).

### Additional support for students

- [Current Student Gateway](#) for information about key dates, access to services, and lots more information
- [Engineering Student Life - Current Student Resources](#) for information about everything from getting to campus to our first year guide
- [Student Support and Success](#) for our UNSW team dedicated to helping with university life, visas, wellbeing, and academic performance
- [Academic Skills](#) to brush up on some study skills, time management skills, get one-on-one support in developing good learning habits, or join workshops on skills development
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#) for information on the UNSW health services, mental health support, and lots of other useful wellbeing resources
- [Equitable Learning Services](#) for assistance with long term conditions that impact on your studies
- [IT Service Centre](#) for everything to do with computing, including installing UNSW licensed software, access to computing systems, on-campus WIFI and off-campus VPNs

### Course workload

Course workload is calculated using the Units-Of-Credit (UOC). The normal workload expectation for one UOC is approximately 25 hours per term. This includes class contact hours, private study, other learning activities, preparation and time spent on all assessable work.

Most coursework courses at UNSW are 6 UOC and involve an estimated 150 hours to complete, for both regular and intensive terms. Each course includes a prescribed number of hours per week (h/w) of scheduled face-to-face and/or online contact. Any additional time beyond the prescribed contact hours should be spent in making sure that you understand the lecture material, completing the set assignments, further reading, and revising for any examinations. Most 6 UoC courses will involve approximately 10-12 hours per week of work on your part. If you're not sure what to do in these hours of independent study, the resources on the [UNSW Academic Skills](#) pages offer some suggestions including: making summaries of lectures, read/summarise sections from the textbook, attempt workshop problems, reattempting workshop problems with some hints from the solutions, looking for additional problems in the textbook.

Full-time enrolment at university means that it is a *full-time* occupation for you and so you would typically need to devote 35 hours per week to your studies to succeed. Full-time enrolment at university is definitely incompatible with full-time employment. Part-time/casual employment can certainly fit into your study schedule but you will have to carefully balance your study obligations with that work and decide how much time for leisure, family, and sleep you want left after fulfilling your commitments to study and work. Everyone only gets 168 hours per week; overloading yourself with both study commitments and work commitments leads to poor outcomes and dissatisfaction with both, overtiredness, mental health issues, and general poor quality of life.

### On-campus class attendance

In 2023, most classes at UNSW are running in a face-to-face mode only. Attendance is expected as is

participation in the classes. As an evidence-driven engineer or scientist, you'll be interested to know that education research has shown students learn more effectively when they come to class, and less effectively from lecture catch-up recordings. If you have to miss a class due to illness, for example, we expect you to catch up in your time, and within the coming couple of days.

For most courses that are running in an "in person" mode:

- Lectures are normally recorded to provide an opportunity to review material after the lecture; lecture recordings are not a substitute for attending and engaging with the live class.
- Workshops/tutorials are not normally recorded as the activities that are run within those sessions normally cannot be captured by a recording. These activities may also include assessable activities in some or all weeks of the term.
- Laboratories are not recorded and require in-person attendance. Missing laboratory sessions may require you to do a make-up session later in the term; if you miss too many laboratory sessions, it may be necessary to seek a Permitted Withdrawal from the course and reattempt it next year, or end up with an Unsatisfactory Fail for the course.
- Assessments will often require in-person attendance in a timetabled class or a scheduled examination.

This course outline will have further details in the Course Schedule and Assessment sections.

Class numbers are capped in each class to ensure appropriate facilities are available, to maintain student:staff ratios, and to help maintain adequate ventilation in the spaces. Only students enrolled in each specific classes will be allowed in the room. Class rosters will be attached to corresponding rooms and circulated among lab demonstrators and tutors. No over-enrolment is allowed in face-to-face classes.

In certain classroom and laboratory situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained or the staff running the session believe that it will not be maintained, face masks will be designated by the course coordinator as **mandatory PPE** for students and staff. Students are required to bring and use their own face mask. Mask can be purchased from IGA Supermarket (Map B8, Lower Campus), campus pharmacy (Map F14, Middle Campus), the post office (Map F22, Upper Campus) and a vending machine in the foyer of the Biological Sciences Building (Map E26, Upper Campus).

Your health and the health of those in your class is critically important. You must stay at home if you have COVID-19 or have been advised to self-isolate by [NSW health](#) or government authorities.

## Asking Questions

Asking questions is an important part of learning. Learning to ask good questions and building the confidence to do so in front of others is an important professional skill that you need to develop. The best place to ask questions is during the scheduled classes for this course, with the obvious exception being questions that are private in nature such as special consideration or equitable learning plans. Between classes, you might also think of questions — some of those you might save up for the next class (write them down!), and some of them you might ask in a Q&A channel on Teams or a Q&A forum on Moodle. Please understand that staff won't be able to answer questions on Teams/Moodle immediately but will endeavour to do so during their regular working hours (i.e. probably not at midnight!) and when they are next working on this particular course (i.e. it might be a day or two). Please respect that staff are juggling multiple work responsibilities (teaching more than one course, supervising research students, doing experiments, writing grants, ...) and also need to have balance between work and the rest of their life.

*Note: This course outline sets out description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for the up to date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the Course Outline/Moodle applies.*

## **Image Credit**

Pilot Hall with experiment rigs // UNSW Chemical Engineering

## **CRICOS**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.

## Appendix: Engineers Australia (EA) Professional Engineer Competency Standard

| Program Intended Learning Outcomes  |   |
|---|---|
| Knowledge and skill base  |   |
| PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline | ✓ |
| PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of the mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, and computer and information sciences which underpin the engineering discipline          |   |
| PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the engineering discipline  | ✓ |
| PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions within the engineering discipline  | ✓ |
| PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice and contextual factors impacting the engineering discipline  | ✓ |
| PE1.6 Understanding of the scope, principles, norms, accountabilities and bounds of sustainable engineering practice in the specific discipline                             |   |
| Engineering application ability   |   |
| PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving   | ✓ |
| PE2.2 Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources   | ✓ |
| PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes  |   |
| PE2.4 Application of systematic approaches to the conduct and management of engineering projects  |   |
| Professional and personal attributes  |   |
| PE3.1 Ethical conduct and professional accountability   |   |
| PE3.2 Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains  | ✓ |
| PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour   | ✓ |
| PE3.4 Professional use and management of information  | ✓ |
| PE3.5 Orderly management of self, and professional conduct  |   |
| PE3.6 Effective team membership and team leadership   | ✓ |