Chem 538 Syllabus Winter 2011

Organic Chemistry of Macromolecules

Instructor: Prof Anne McNeil Office: 2817 Chemistry Phone: 615-5204 Email: ajmcneil@umich.edu

Office Hrs: Wed/Fri 10-11 am

Class: MWF; 9-10 am in 1650.

Text: Polymers: Chemistry and Physics of Modern Materials by J.M.G. Cowie, 3rd edition

Supplemental: Principles of Polymerization by Odian, 4th edition

Polymer Chemistry by Stevens, 3rd edition

Requirements: Your grade will be based on three exams, five problem sets, and a class project.

Grading: Exam 1 (Mon. February 7, 2011; 7-9 pm; 1706) 25% of final grade (200 pts)

Exam 2 (Mon. March 14, 2011; 7-9 pm; 1706) 25% of final grade (200 pts) Exam 3 (Mon. April 18, 2011; 7-9 pm; 1706) 25% of final grade (200 pts)

Grading System: The exams will be graded using the 0-5-10 system. For example, if a question is worth 10

points, you can get a 0, 5, or 10. We round to the closest number.

Problem Sets: Problem sets (5) will be graded based on effort with an S (20 pts) or U (0 pts). It is your

responsibility to check the answer key to check the accuracy of your answers. These problems are representative of ones you will see on the exams. 12.5% of final grade (100

pts).

Class Project: You will work in assigned groups to create or edit a Wikipedia site related to an important

topic or person in polymer chemistry. This project will begin mid-January and more details

will come. 12.5% of final grade (100 pts).

Refresher: You should go over your undergraduate organic chemistry course material and refresh

your memory on the standard functional groups and their reactivity. You should be able to draw an arrow-pushing mechanism for these basic transformations: S_N1 , S_N2 , transesterifications, amide formation, alcohol additions to isocyanates, enolate alkylations and acid/ester condensations, free radical reactions with alkenes,

electrophilic additions to alkenes, alkene and alkyne metathesis reactions.