



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Practical Polymer Chemistry	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Medeina Steponavičiūtė Other(s): Jūratė Jonikaitė-Švėgždienė	Department of Polymer Chemistry, Vilnius University

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face to face	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry	Additional requirements (if any):

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	135	64	71

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed
Students will apply theoretical knowledge for polymer synthesis and investigation; interpret the data of laboratory experiments and relate it with corresponding theory. Students will develop their independent, team working and problem solving skills.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
After successful completion of this course student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out experiments on polymer synthesis, modification and study of their properties in polymer chemistry laboratory; 2. Become familiar with various methods of polymer synthesis and investigation methods; 3. Explain relationship between polymer properties and type or nature of polymer; 4. Calculate and compare the main macromolecular or polymerization parameters (such as average molecular weight, conversion, rate of polymerization) and explain the influence of the reaction conditions on these parameters. 	Discussions; Problem solving in groups and individually; Textbook reading; Laboratory work.	Assessment of laboratory exercises by conversation.

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
Mechanical properties of polymers: <i>Determination of tensile properties of polymers at break.</i>					4			4	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Polyelectrolytes: <i>Determination of isoelectric or isoionic point of polyelectrolyte.</i>					4			5	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Radical polymerization: <i>Radical polymerization of styrene, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate or butyl acrylate in bulk or in solution.</i>					8			8	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Radical copolymerization: <i>Radical copolymerization of butyl methacrylate with methacrylic acid. Determination of polymer composition and reactivity ratios of comonomers.</i>					8			8	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Polycondensation: <i>Synthesis of linear polyester; or Investigation of acid-catalyzed polycondensation of azelaic, adipic or sebacic acid with (di) ethylene glycol.</i>					4			7	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Chemical modification of polymers: <i>Synthesis of poly(vinyl alcohol); or Synthesis of cellulose triacetate by esterification of cellulose.</i>					8			8	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Controlled polymerization. <i>RAFT polymerization of styrene or butyl acrylate.</i>					8			8	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Polymer coatings. <i>Preparation of various type polymer films by spin-coating method and determination of water contact angle.</i>					4			6	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Polymer identification. <i>Unknown polymer identification using FT-IR, ¹H NMR spectroscopies and chemical reactions.</i>					8			10	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Thermal properties of polymers. <i>Determination of polymer melting point or glass transition by DSC method.</i>					8			7	Preparation for laboratory work and assessment.
Total					64		64	71	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Laboratory exercises (10 tasks)	100	Till 31 May	Assessment of laboratory exercises by conversation. Relevance of description quality of laboratory work. 1 point for one work.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsary reading				
J. Jonikaitė-Švėgždienė	2021	Practical Polymer Chemistry. A Laboratory Manual		VU, https://www.knygynas.vu.lt/search&search=Practical%20Polymer&sub_category=true&description=true
Ch. E. Carraher, Jr.	2017	Introduction to Polymer	Fourth edition	CRC Press

		Chemistry.		
S. Koltzenburg, M. Maskos, O. Nuyken	2017	Polymer chemistry		Springer
D. Braun, H. Cherdrón, M. Rehahn, H. Ritter, B. Voit	2013	Polymer Synthesis: Theory and Practice. Fundamentals, Methods, Experiments.	Fifth edition	Springer
W. Hu	2013	Polymer Physics. A Molecular Approach.		Springer
Ed. N. V. Tsarevsky, B. S. Sumerlin	2013	Fundamentals of Controlled/Living Radical Polymerization.		RCS Publishing
Optional reading				
Ed. E. Saldívar-Guerra, E. Vivaldo-Lima	2013	Handbook of Polymer Synthesis, Characterization, and Processing.		A JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC., PUBLICATION
Ed. A. H. E. Müller, K. Matyjaszewski	2009	Controlled and Living Radical Polymerization. From Mechanisms to Applications.		Wiley-VCH