

GEOL 5304/4311 – Topics in Mineralogy Syllabus

Fall 2009

(v. 1.0)

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Office Hours: 12-12:15, 2:00-2:15 TTH and by appointment.
Class days and times: 12:30-1:45 TTH

Course Description: This is a graduate/senior level (or by permission) course that will address several topics in mineralogy. This is not a course in mineral identification. Several minerals, groups or associations will be discussed in detail and the material will be applied to geologic/petrologic problems. Information based on terrestrial mineralogy will be extrapolated to other Earth-like bodies.

General Goals: Each student will develop: A better understanding of basic crystal structure, crystal chemistry, phase relationships and geologic occurrences of several important mineral groups, including the feldspars, phyllosilicates, silica polymorphs, and mantle phases.

General Objectives: Each student will demonstrate the ability to: Apply mineralogic concepts and knowledge to geologic problems.

Text and Materials:

There is no text for this course but there are lots of handouts. You might want to make an extra copy of the handouts so that you can make notes on one copy and keep the other one original.

Methods of evaluation and grading:

Projects: There will be a term paper on a mineral or group of minerals of your choice. (Check with me before starting your research). The paper will be presented to the class during the last week in a Power Point type of presentation. There will also be a project on basin source area analysis based on feldspars. Other projects will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Exams: There will be one midterm and one final exam. The final will probably be comprehensive over the entire semester but will focus on the material since the midterm. Exams will be short answer, and short essay along with some matching, T/F or any other type of question I can come up with. Be Prepared for anything and you will be surprised by nothing.

No make-up exams or quizzes will be given unless prior arrangements have been made. If you have a death in the family you must bring in a proof of death in order to take a make-up.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given throughout the semester, especially if I sense that students are not keeping up or reviewing their notes as we go.

Class participation: It is assumed that students will actively participate in class discussions and prepare for these discussions by staying current in their review.

Homework: Homework will be assigned throughout the semester in addition to the projects.

Points:	Midterm	100 pts
	Final	200 pts
	Term paper	100 pts
	Term Paper presentation	25 pts
	Basin analysis	50 pts
	Homework	70 pts (Variable)
	Class participation	100 pts

Grading: Final course grade will be based on a percentage of the total possible points as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
Less than 60%	F

Tips to help you succeed in this course: 1) Attend every lecture - do not miss class. 2) Come to class prepared- "A" students can expect to study 6-8 hrs/week outside of class, poorer students will need to study more. 3) If you have any problems with course material, understanding assignments, preparing for quizzes, exams or papers- GET HELP! Take advantage of my office hours and don't hesitate to make an appointment or talk to me in the hallway.

Sul Ross State University Attendance and Classroom Policies: *(You are graduates/seniors you shouldn't need this but I have to put it in)*

Attendance is expected. In order for you to succeed in this class, it is crucial that you be here. You can not learn from me or your fellow students if you are not here. Therefore, I expect you to attend all classes, not just on exam or quiz days. Sul Ross policy states that an instructor may drop a student with an "F" for 9 hours of absences.

Class Disruption: The Student handbook states under Student Misconduct, number 21, "Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or classroom activities". Behavior which is included in this category includes 1) persistent talking to ones neighbors 2) coming to class late or leaving early 3) the use of cellular phones/pagers in the classroom. **Cell phones must be turned off in class. No texting will be tolerated.** If you are a member of an EMS/VFD group or have a child in day care and they must be able to reach you, let me know and we will work something out. Offenders of this policy will be asked to keep quiet. If this fails, offenders will be asked to leave the classroom. This action will be followed by a meeting with the Dean of Student Life. If there are further incidences, UPD will be called and offenders will be physically ejected from the classroom. This will quite likely be followed by expulsion from the University.

Sul Ross State University Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:

The student is referred to the student handbook section on Academic honesty. If you are caught plagiarizing/cheating you will either be brought before the dean of the College with expulsion proceedings initiated or given an F in the course.

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental or learning disability, please contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator in the University Center, Room 211, or call (432) 837-8178

As you may have noticed, this syllabus is "fluid" in its content. This is because the course will be "fluid" in content.