

SIO 87-Treasures of the Earth: minerals, crystals, and gems

W 2:00-3:50

York 3030

Instructor

Geoffrey Cook

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Office Hours: by appointment

Hello! I am thrilled to be introducing you to the exciting world of minerals and Earth materials! This seminar is designed to give students from a wide range of backgrounds a general understanding of minerals and their usefulness to society. You need not have a background in geology to enjoy the class. I always encourage questions and discussion in class and am happy to re-address or clarify concepts. I want this to be a positive and useful learning experience for each and every one of you!

Class Organization and Grading:

We will meet five times during the quarter, on Tuesdays in York 3030. The meeting days are: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3. In class we will engage in a variety of activities, including video presentations, looking at hand specimens of minerals, lectures, and discussions. You will be graded primarily on attendance and participation. Consequently, you need to be present at each meeting in order to pass the seminar. There are no exams, and no final exam. There will be several short written exercises to be handed in for the following class period. These will count towards your participation.

Absences and Missed Work:

In the case of legitimate conflicts, absences will be accommodated provided there is written documentation. In the case of deaths, accidents, or sickness, notification is appreciated as soon as possible.

Classroom Conduct:

Disruptions during lecture will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior including talking, excessive noise, poor behavior towards other students or instructors, arriving late/leaving early, reading newspapers in class, inappropriate language/comments in lecture, or ringing cell phones will result in your being asked to leave the class. Continued disruption will result in a referral to the appropriate administrative authorities. It is to your benefit to arrive on time because most announcements and assignments occur at the beginning of class.

SIO 87 Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1-6	Welcome and introduction to minerals, crystal shapes
1-13	Kaleidoscope of colors (how and why color varies in minerals)
1-20	Metallic minerals
1-27	Silicate minerals
2-3	Gems, minerals as natural resources and as health hazards (!)