

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



Thursday 9-10:50 AM (*meeting weeks 1-5 only*)

York Hall 3030

Instructor: Geoffrey Cook

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 12-1 (Zoom)

Hello! I am thrilled to introduce 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 don't need to be a geologist to enjoy the class. I want this to be a positive and useful learning experience for everyone.

Class Organization and Grading:

We will meet five times during the quarter, on Thursdays from 9-10:50 AM in York Hall 3030. The meeting days are: 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31. In class we will engage in a variety of activities, including video presentations, looking at hand specimens of minerals, short lectures, and discussions. This class is graded P/NP, based on your attendance and completion of weekly exercises on Canvas. There are no exams, and no final exam. In order to receive a "P" grade you must complete all assignments and attend all class meetings.

Absences and Missed Work:

Because we only meet five times this quarter, *on-time* attendance at each meeting is required and expected. In the case of illness or emergencies absences may be excused, but prior communication or a documented excuse are required. Please just be sure to communicate with me early and often. Note that weekly assignments are due on Canvas on **Wednesday** at 11:59PM.

Classroom Conduct:

This is meant to be a fun and low-stress learning experience. Please be respectful at all times. You are expected to arrive on-time, pay attention, participate as requested, and stay for the entire class. Cell phones and computers must be put away and closed for the duration of the meetings.

SIO 87 FA24 Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
10-3	Welcome and introduction to minerals, crystal shapes
10-10	Kaleidoscope of colors (how and why color varies in minerals)
10-17	Metallic minerals
10-24	Non-metallic minerals
10-31	Gems, minerals as natural resources, thin sections (minerals in the microscope), special properties of minerals.