ROCKS & MINERALS (GEOL 202)
Fall Semester 2013
Professor: Michael Bizimis
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Course Objective & Content
The primary objective of this course is to convey an introductory level understanding of the nature and origins of minerals, how they are studied and why they are important to our understanding of the modern earth and earth history. The third page of this syllabus is a detailed schedule of topics and activities that will be covered in this course. This schedule is subject to change without notice.

Meeting Times & Places
Lectures are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:40 to 12:55 in Sumwalt 213. Laboratory meetings are on Monday from 1:10 to 4:10 (section 1), and Thursday from 4:25-7:25 (section 2). All laboratory meetings are in EWS208.

Attendance
Attendance policy in this class is consistent with the university policy, which states that “Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences”. This course will have 26 class meetings (excluding exams). 4 absences, whether excused or unexcused, puts you in violation of the above-stated “10% rule”. The aforementioned penalty for excessive absences may be up to one full course grade and It is up to the instructor to determine this. Participation in all laboratory exercises is essential to the successful completion of this course. If during any week of this course you fail to attend laboratory and do not make immediate arrangements with the IA to obtain the laboratory materials and information, you will be assigned a zero for that lab. Please make every attempt to attend your assigned laboratory section.

Learning Outcomes
Students taking this class will learn how minerals are classified on the basis of their crystallography, chemical composition and optical properties. They will learn the basic methodologies for studying rocks and minerals, including the use of x-rays and the polarizing light microscope. Students will also learn how rocks and minerals provide insights into the processes that have controlled the genesis and evolution of the solid earth, its ocean and atmosphere. Students taking this class will learn to identify minerals based on their physical properties. They will also learn to identify the common rock-forming minerals by sight and by association.

PowerPoint & Blackboard
I try to make my lectures as interactive as possible, usually by asking you questions about the subject matter as we move along. You should also feel free to ask questions. In particular, if you don't understand something, speak-up! It's likely that another student has the same question as you. Lecture material will be in pdf or Powerpoint format, which will be available to you on Blackboard. Look for them under 'Course Documents' in your Blackboard area called Rocks & Minerals. Also – be sure that email sent to you via Blackboard is forwarded to whatever email address you check frequently. If you don't do this, you run the risk of missing important course information. All exam questions in this class will be taken directly from these pdf or PowerPoint files.
**Books**  

**Grades**  
Final grades will be based on a curve, which typically results in an average course grade in the area of a low ‘B’. Note however, that this is an observation and not a policy, and that I would be happy to assign all students in the course grades of ‘A’ if they were to earn that grade. There will be three equally weighted lecture exams, which will be given in class. The final exam will be given in the final exam period and will include some questions from the material covered in each of the previous three exams. Labs and home works are weighted equally. The value of a quiz is twice the value of a lab. The overall weighting of course work is listed below.

- Lecture Exams (3) ___________ 30%
- Final Exam ________________ 15%
- Labs, Quizzes & Home Work ______ 40%
- Lab Final ___________________ 15%

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**Office Hours / Communicating With Me**  
Office hours are immediately following each Tues-Thurs class meeting, or any time by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Email is an easy and effective way for us to communicate – I check my email compulsively and will try to respond to your inquiries promptly. **NOTE:** make sure your email subject starts with “GEOL202:” . This will ensure your email goes to the appropriate mailbox and ensures quicker response.