



Course Syllabus: Geochemistry [GX]

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

GEOS 5243 -201 | Spring 2022

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan D. Price

Office: Bolin 102

Office hours: MW 10-11a | M 1p-3p | F 8-9a by appointment

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Course Objectives

- Familiarize students with the fundamentals of magmatic and aqueous mass transport
- Evaluate and explore thermodynamics and kinetic theory as applied to geosystems large and small
- Provide tools for examining geochemical reactions
- Examine the basics of stable and radioactive isotopes
- Introduce useful attributes to be applied to research
- Provide numerous opportunities to engage with data and critically evaluate merits and weaknesses
- Discuss and evaluate scientific literature

Textbook & Instructional Materials

White, Geochemistry ISBN: 9780470656686

Room

Bolin 115 is both the meeting room and workroom for the course. Access by valid student ID card.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

Table 1: Assignment weights

Assignments	Percent
Project (lab/written/oral)	20%
Participation and interaction within discussion and problem solving	11%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	17%
Lab assignments	30%
Field Trip	7%

Table 2: Total percentage points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90+
B	80 to 89.9
C	70 to 79.9
D	60 to 69.9
F	Less than 60

Work submission

I will issue specific assignments in class and lab, and try to replicate these on D2L. Completed work may be remitted to me in person, through my office mailbox (Bolin 102), or by electronic submission.

Exams

Exam 1 will cover the first half of the semester, and may include an in-class and take-home portions. Exam 2 will cover the entire semester in a similar fashion

Projects Required

I plan to have the class engage in hands-on geochemical research on individually assigned problems. The class will progress project work throughout the semester, culminating in a written report covering the acquired data.

Writing Center

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, located off the 2nd floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager. Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm; you can also find a tutor at the satellite location in Moffett Library Honors Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Colloquium

The Kimbell School of Geosciences hosts up to three speakers each semester as part of our Geoscience and Environmental Science Colloquium. This is an opportunity to learn about the broader science from experienced practitioners. As

students in this class, your attendance is mandatory. The schedule is at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/geosciences/colloquium>

Late Work

Late submitted assignments are the bane of our mutual existence: they are disadvantageous to you, because you fall behind the class. They are detrimental to the class, because they hold up my grading. They are disconcerting to me, because they require my reexamination of a previously graded assignment. Needless to say, this will not be an issue if you complete your assignments well ahead of the due date.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

This is a graduate –level class. At this point, you undoubtedly realize the importance of interactions with your professor and colleagues in the classroom and lab settings. You need to be both present and fully engaged in each meeting. In the rare case you are missing class, you should contact the professor and the other members of the class to inform us of your absence prior to the meeting.

Note: you are still responsible for missed assignments.

Pandemic

The pandemic remains a concern. The instructor would appreciate your thoughtful engagement of the class, including respecting the health, safety, and concerns of your colleagues.

As always – illness is an excused absence. So is isolation and quarantining. Please report positive tests and exposures to COVID-19 to https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=9. I will work with you to stay current in this class in the case of absences.

Distancing, masks, hygiene and testing are strongly encouraged when area infection rates are high. We're not a big class, thankfully reduces our risk of serving as disease vectors.

Vaccination is key to disarming the virus. Vaccines remain free and widely available. The vaccines are safe and effective and will protect the student and other members of the MSU Texas community. The following are suggested resources:

- Vinson Health Center by appointment (940-397-4231).
- Local retail pharmacy location such as CVS, United Supermarkets and Market Street, and Walgreens.
- Your primary care physician.

- Find a vaccine location statewide: COVIDvaccine.texas.gov or call 833-832-7067 for assistance.

Details about the current status of campus and responses to the pandemic are found at <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php>.

Learning environment

Dr. Price is committed to providing an equitable and inclusive forum for learning and endeavors to keep this class an open, supporting, and safe space for all students. He is available and willing to address your issues and concerns. He also wants you to be aware of the following supporting structures that assist in this environment.

To help achieve the vision of "STEM leadership--Diverse scholarship," the McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering (MCOSME) students benefit from the numerous offices and student services available on the MSU campus. Links to resources and information are here:

https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/student_resources.php.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

University-Wide Policies: Campus Carry

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

GEOS 5234 Geochemistry				
	Day	Date	Topic	Lab
1	M	1/10	Intro-orientation	none
1	W	1/12	Earth Overview	Crust and mantle
2	W	1/19	Elements and ions	none
3	M	1/24	Minerals and rocks	none
3	W	1/26	Rocks and minerals	Phase diagrams I
4	M	1/31	Phase diagrams	none
4	W	2/2	Thermodynamic fundamentals	Phase diagrams II
5	M	2/7	Thermodynamic fundamentals	none
5	W	2/9	Diffraction analysis	Mineral structure
6	M	2/14	Thermodynamic fundamentals	none
6	W	2/16	Fluorescence analysis	Compositional analysis I
7	M	2/21	Multicomponent systems	none
7	W	2/23	Other analytical techniques	Compositional analysis II
8	M	2/28	Geothermodynamics	none
8	W	3/2	Midterm issued	Microanalysis I
9	M	3/7	GSA prep	none
9	W	3/9	GSA prep	Microanalysis II
10	M	3/21	GSA debrief	none
10	W	3/23	Experimental Geochemistry	Computational geochem I
11	M	3/28	Experimental Geochemistry	none
11	W	3/30	Kinetics	Computational geochem I
T	F	4/1	Field Trip Leadership	none
T	Sa	4/2	Field Trip Leadership	none
T	Sn	4/3	Field Trip Leadership	none
12	M	4/4	Kinetics	none
12	W	4/6	Aqueous	Aqueous data
13	M	4/11	Aqueous	none
13	W	4/13	Isotopic systems	Project I
14	M	4/18	Isotopic systems	none
14	W	4/20	Isotopic systems	Project II
15	M	4/25	Presentations	none
15	W	4/27	Presentations	Presentations