

Poor EXAMS in GEL3050 Mineralogy & Optical Mineralogy?

Here is a self check list of activities that are known to make a difference. If you are doing at least 90% of them (or 11 out of the 13 listed) you should see an improvement in your performance. Low grades are usually the result of doing very little of what is indicated below.

- I am attending every class session and am missing very little (maybe once per semester)
- I am attentive during lecture and do NOT engage in unrelated activities (texting, internet searches, studying for an exam - even for this course)
- I am staying for the LAB time when offered and do not leave early
- I am completing ALL the associated LABS and do so by myself without copying from others or relying on a lab partner.
- I am taking the lead in forming or participating in study groups with students in my class at least once per week for several hours, preferably more often.
- I am making use of open LAB hours alone or in a group outside the scheduled class and lab times as posted on the outside classroom doors
- I am familiar with and are confident in using the associated lab kits for this course and can apply their use.
- I am indeed making index cards for studying the minerals, their chemistry and associated crystal structure.
- I am using the available study guide(s) as posted on Dr.K's website which include sample questions!
- I am reading the appropriate chapters in the lab manual(s) and the text book BEFORE the exam
- I am preparing for and taking the associated topic quizzes BEFORE the exam
- I am taking meticulous class notes, such as Cornell Notes, and review these notes intently for at least one hour EVERY DAY.
- If I hope for a "C" on the exam(s), I am intently & sufficiently studying¹ A BARE MINIMUM of AT LEAST 16 hours BEFORE each exam, EXCLUDING LAB TIME!

DISCLAIMER: Be advised that this suggestion for receiving a "C" on Exams is only an approximation of probabilities and is NOT guaranteed. Personal problem solving and learning skills as well as commitment greatly influence the outcome .

<p>Since daily time is usually limited, the preparation for an exam in this course will need to be stretched over several days. It is easy to see that the usual cramming the day or night before will ultimately lead to poor grades and is doomed to fail. The following table summarizes days of study for time allotments per day for a typical mineralogy exam. While results may vary, keep in mind that the table indicates a target grade of 75%.</p> <p><u>A grade higher than a "C" requires substantially greater time commitment, such as doubling the suggested times.</u></p>	studying 2hrs per day	about 8 days prior to exam
	studying 3hrs per day	about 5 days prior to exam
	studying 4hrs per day	about 4 days prior to exam

If you do all of this and are still not improving, come and see me. There might be some other issues which I could help to identify. Cheers -Dr.K

¹Studying means being engaged in the learning process without distraction: NO TV, NO music (headphones), NO conversation or cell phone / texting. It must involve complete concentration and immersion on the task at hand, otherwise the given time estimates easily quadruple.