

GENERAL GEOCHEMISTRY

Professor: Matthew Pasek

Welcome to general geochemistry. This is a graduate course in the geology curriculum. I'm your professor, Matthew Pasek. I am a geologist and chemist and planetary scientist by training. And so a lot of what I do personally is understand the chemistry of the element phosphorus as it relates from the origin, the very primitive parts of life, down to even modern times, and so a lot of what we look at is understanding where biology and geology and chemistry intercepts, so this biogeochemistry term.

And so a number of things that we tend to enjoy doing in my lab and hopefully, you will gain an enjoyment of doing as well, is thermodynamic calculations. And so grinding through calculus and algebra to get at some sort of fruitful final calculation is one of the major things that we love to do in our class and that you will be doing in our class as well. And so a good portion of this will be-- a majority of your grade will come from several computational works that we call problem sets or homeworks that are two to three week long projects that you try to understand certain chemical aspects about the geological or even planetary environment.

Other parts of this course will include discoveries in paper writing skills and becoming familiar with the peer review process, as well as having a mid-term, and a few weekly quizzes that are there to kind of encourage you to participate on a weekly schedule so that you are familiar with what we are talking about each module of this course.

Since this is an online course, I'll try to be as accessible as I can, usually by Skype or by email, at the very least. By all means, feel free to contact me. I will have office hours that you can make by appointment if you happen to live in the local Tampa area and can make it here. Please feel free to use me as a resource, ask questions when you have your problem sets, and if you're trying to write your paper, please get feedback from both myself and your classmates on your writing style and the nature of the argument you have made and whether or not you're successful as well.

I tend to be fairly open office. There's sometimes that it may be a busy time, but by all means, don't take my dirty look when you enter as a negative impact. It's just I give everyone a dirty look when they enter my office.