

Geology 278

Gemmology and Mineralogy

2nd Semester

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES REGARDING REVISION OF MARK COMPILATION

Text that is struck through is no longer relevant. Text that is in italics has been added.

4. COURSE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Progress and Class Mark

The progress mark for second semester is composed of: (1) continuous assessment of marked practical work, (2) tests during the semester, and ~~(3) a practical test at mid-semester (no longer included)~~

The marked practical work is composed of ~~40~~ 7 practical assignments. ~~One of these is a take home assignment.~~ The practicals are worth ~~40%~~ 50 % of the progress mark (i.e. ~~each practical is worth 4%~~). *All the practicals are evenly weighted except for practical two on the Bushveld Complex which counts for two weeks.* Due dates for practicals are clearly indicated on the practical when it is handed out in class.

~~Four~~ Three 40 minute theory tests will be held during the semester. The dates are given below. An optional ~~fifth~~ *fourth* test will be scheduled ~~according to student's timetables~~ *should students request this*. The ~~four best three~~ marks are combined to give a single test mark out of ~~20~~ 50 (i.e. ~~each test is worth 5%~~).

~~The practical test will be 2 hours in duration and will require microscope identification of minerals and hand specimen examination. This test is worth 40% of the second semester progress mark.~~

Therefore the progress mark for second semester is calculated as follows:

Practical work	50%
Test mark (best of 3)	50%
Practical test	40%

At the end of second semester, the progress mark for assessment criteria set in the second semester, will be combined in a ratio 50:50 with the progress mark from the first semester to give a class mark for the year. To qualify for the final theory exam (on the material presented in second semester only), all students must obtain a class mark of 40% or more for the whole year.

4.2 Practical Exam

All students sit a practical exam on the second semester material in the last week of the second semester. This exam will require students to identify minerals in a thin-section using skills that they have developed during the semester, to write a description of the thin-section and to make some simply geological interpretations about the thin-section. This mark is combined with the practical exam mark from the first semester in a ratio 50:50. Students must obtain a sub-minimum of 50% average mark in order to pass the GEOL278 course.

In the event that any student does not obtain an average of 50% for the combined practical exam mark, a second chance practical exam will be provided on material from both semesters prior to the date of the final theory exam subject to consultation with the relevant students.

4.3 Final Exam

To sit the final theory exam all students must obtain a sub-minimum of 50% average mark in the practical exams for the year as well as a class mark of 40% or more for the combined mark for both semesters. The final exam in November is a 3 hour theory exam covering all aspects of the course material given in the second semester. Entrance to the final examination in November requires a year class mark of at least 40%. Note that as a result of changes to the examination procedure there is no second option exam available. All students sitting the G278 course **must** sit the first exam in November. Students who for medical reasons are unable to sit the first exam, will be allowed to sit the second exam which follows directly after the first in late November. A medical certificate must be provided. In addition the student will be required to complete an official declaration on a specified form to declare that he/she had indeed been ill.

The first exam period is from the 29th November. The second exam period is in December.

	JUNE and NOVEMBER FIRST EXAMINATION		JUNE and NOVEMBER SECOND EXAMINATION	
	Student	Consequence	Student	Consequence
First semester or second semester or year module (Admission to the examination requires a class mark of at least 40)	1. Writes, obtaining a final mark of 50 or more	Passes the module	—	—
	2. Writes, obtaining a final mark of 40 or 45	Allowed to rewrite in second examination (<i>automatic</i> admission)	Writes, obtaining a final mark of 50 or more	Passes the module
			Writes, obtaining a final mark of less than 50	Fails the module, must repeat it next year
			Absent, for whatever reason(s)	Fails the module, must repeat it next year
	3. Writes, obtaining a final mark of less than 40	Fails the module, must repeat it next year	—	—
	4. Absent due to illness, proven by a medical certificate and declaration	Allowed, with permission of the Examinations Office, to write the second examination	Writes, obtaining a final mark of 50 or more	Passes the module
			Writes, obtaining a final mark of less than 50	Fails the module, must repeat it next year
			Absent, for whatever reason(s)	Fails the module, must repeat it next year
	5. Absent	Fails the module, must repeat it next year		

Further guidelines to changes in the examination procedure are available in Part 1 of the University Calendar 2007.

4.4 Compilation of the final semester mark

The final performance mark for the year will consist of the final class mark and the final exam mark in a ratio 40:60 respectively. The final class mark is calculated as above while the final exam mark for the year is made up of the average mark for the two practical exams and the average mark of the two theory exams in the ratio 25:75 respectively.

Provided that the examination mark is 50% or more, the performance mark will not be less than 50%. Final marks between 35 and 50 will be allocated in multiples of 5 at the department's discretion and in line with university policy.

If a student obtains a final mark of 45 or 40, he/she will be allowed to sit the second exam which will follow directly after the first in November or early December.

A final mark of less than 50 shall be allocated if a student obtains a final exam mark of less than 40. A final mark of less than 40 shall be allocated if a student obtains an examination mark of less than 30. See the above table for details.

4.5 Exam and Test Dates

The Practical Exam will take place on the 25th of October

Students who wish to sit an optional fourth theory test must nominate a date and time in the last week of term.