

## Evaluation Results

### of the course **Advanced Petrology** held by **Mag. Dr. Tamer Abu-Alam** (winter term 2012/13, 2 hours)

At the University Graz a **competence oriented evaluation instrument** (GEKo) is in use, focussing on the learning outcomes of the students. Depending on the type of course students evaluate their competence increase in the areas of *professional knowledge*, *methodological competence*, *social competence*, *personal competence*, and/or *media competence*. Additionally to general questions on the parameters of learning and teaching there are two open questions on what students like about the course and what could be improved.

Each item can be evaluated on a **scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree)**. If more than five students evaluate the course the system automatically displays the mean. Means higher than 3,5 are valued positively.

If a course is nominated for the teaching award several items related to the thematic focus of the teaching award are added to the general evaluation.

Evaluation results		Mean (8/9 participants)
1	I had already had knowledge of the course's topic prior to the start of the semester.	3,50
2	I have dealt with the course's content in more detail than expected from the course instructor.	4,90
<b>Subject competence</b>		
3	I have broader subject knowledge now.	5,60
4	I can give a good overview of the course's content.	6,00
5	I have learned to make connections between the individual subjects.	5,80
6	I have learned to recognize complex relationships within the course's subject.	5,80
<b>Methodological competence</b>		
7	Due to this course, I am able to better evaluate the quality of scholarly articles and publications on the topic.	5,30
8	Due to this course, I am able to search for information on the subject more efficiently.	4,90
9	I can apply the knowledge I have acquired to different problems and tasks.	5,90
10	I have enhanced my academic problem solving skills.	6,00
<b>Social competence</b>		
11	In this course, I have enhanced my ability to work in teams.	5,00
12	I was able to integrate my knowledge and capabilities into the group.	5,30
13	I could benefit from the knowledge and capabilities of other course members.	5,40
14	I have an easier time taking over responsibility in the group.	4,80
<b>Personal competence</b>		
15	In the course, I have learned to monitor my learning progress better.	4,30
16	I have learned to schedule my study time better.	4,80
17	I have become better at judging how much work is involved in completing tasks.	4,40
18	In this course, I have become better at setting study goals for myself.	4,50
<b>General conditions for learning and teaching</b>		
19	There is a positive atmosphere between the instructor and the students.	6,00
20	The course has an appropriate number of participants.	5,60
21	The physical learning environment allowed me to work well.	5,60
22	This course has promoted my interest in the subject.	6,00
23	The instructor is also available at announced times outside the course hours.	5,90
24	The instructor uses teaching methods that are very appropriate.	5,90

### Gender-conscious teaching

25	The instructor makes sure to treat women and men equally, e.g. by using gender-conscious language.	6,00
26	Content is conveyed in the course by taking into consideration gender-specific aspects.	5,00

### What do you like about this course (selection)?

- This is the first time to study the petrology but by chemistry and physics tools. After I had this course, I can interpret rock thin-section but based on thermodynamic and chemistry evolution in the rocks. As well the teacher gave us a nice introduction how to use the MATLAB (a computer modelling program) to model and predict the mineral phases in the rock based on the chemistry and the thermodynamics. For the first time in my life I can connect different sciences (physics, chemistry, geology, mathematics and petrology) in one lecture without feeling that there is something missing between those sciences. As well the teacher gave us a lot of the lectures, time to do discuss. The teacher made the lecture atmosphere as one family.
- The teacher conveys the content very well, complex problems were explained with sketches, the PowerPoint presentations are well designed
- This course was very practically oriented and held lively and interesting, the teacher was always very attentive and was very eager to convey the material as completely and understandable as possible.
- Very pleasant pace, not too fast. Every question was answered immediately.
- I hope if the teacher of this course (Dr. Tamer Abu-Alam) will teach another course next semesters with the same theme.

### What could be improved (selection)?

- The course should be held in a computer class so that the students can practice the calculation problems that were presented simultaneously.
- I would wish for a deeper introduction into the program "thermocalc" because it is not being discussed in other courses.
- I am very satisfied with this course, therefore I don't have any suggestions for improvement.

### Additional teaching award items

1	In the course methods, theories, and results from different disciplines are systematically linked.	5,60
2	I receive constructive and personal feedback for my work.	4,90
3	The teacher encourages the students to participate actively and reflect in a critical manner.	6,00
4	The grading system of the course is clear and transparent.	5,70
5	The teacher treats the students in a respectful way.	5,90
6	The teacher manages to convey fascination for the subject.	5,90
7	Compared to other courses this course differs in a positive manner.	5,40

### If the course is in positive contrast to other courses, please state how (selection):

- There are two or three other courses which deal with the petrology. But this course is the first course that can link the petrology with the chemistry and the physics (thermodynamic). The teacher has amazing way in teaching. He can explain his idea using the blackboard and the power point. By his teaching way - you will never loss your concentration during the lecture. The teacher is available all the time in his office and he answers our question even outside the lectures hours. During the lecture, a real examples were used - as well the teacher always try to link the lecture with our scientific problems in our B.Sc. and Ph.D. projects.
- Friendly teacher, right pace of lecture, interesting topic
- Of course it might be related to the low number of students in this course

In sum, eight out of nine participant of the course Advanced Petrology evaluated their competence increase, especially in the areas of subject and methodological competences, very positively and gave much positive and appreciating feedback to Mr. Abu-Alam. His way of teaching impressed the students who valued his pace, explanations, lively style, and high engagement even outside of class.