Spring 2019 Geoscience 777: SEM-Electron Microprobe Analysis

Lecture: Tuesdays 9:30-11:00  Location: Weeks A320 (Annex wing)
Lab: Location: SEM-Weeks 308  Electron probe: either 306 or 312

The purpose of this course is to provide the background (practical and theoretical) to permit the intelligent use of the scanning electron microscope (SEM) and the electron probe microanalyzer (EPMA) (also called the electron microprobe) for scientific research. Scanning electron microscopy (imaging) and electron-based X-ray microanalysis are the specific endeavors.

To the extent feasible, students will get hands-on experience with the Hitachi S3400 SEM and the CAMECA electron probes in the course of lab exercises. Full training for independent use of these instruments in an individual’s research is arranged at the time when her/his samples are ready and he/she is ready to begin a regular schedule of instrument use. (“If you don’t use it, you lose it” is very true for instrument instruction—particularly for the electron probe.)

I teach this class differently today compared to how I did it when I started teaching it years ago. I want you to study the lecture notes BEFORE you come to class. All class lecture notes are available in advance as a series of PowerPoint slides on the website <www.geology.wisc.edu/~johnf/g777> Each student is responsible for carefully reading this material prior to the class, and bringing questions (e.g. difficulties in understanding it, and/or implications/applications of it) to class. It has been shown that you learn more that way. Ask questions!

On occasion, a paper or series of short articles may be assigned to all students as part of the required material to be read to augment the lecture material, for discussion or for understanding software you will be using (such as the ones on the DTSA software during weeks 5-7).

There will be quizzes each week on the assigned materials: 1-2 questions from the assigned powerpoint/s for the week, and 3-4 questions from previous material. This helps both you (you stay up-to-date) and me (I quickly see if there are difficulties with particular topics.) There will be two lab practical exams (on SEM and then on EPMA) instead of midterm and final exams.

Research project: this will be discussed in more detail in a few weeks. This will be real research, which will be presented at a conference this year. We will work together, but each student is responsible for their own writeup/report. A first draft will be due on April 23, and the final one on the last official day of classes, May 3.

Textbook: There is none required. Several standard references are listed at the end and are on reserve in the geology library. One is freely downloadable.

Class meetings will be ~90 minutes per week (with a short break if needed), with a weekly problem set assigned to accompany major topics, and 2 hour lab sessions with SEM/electron probe to demonstrate key parts of the theory and application of SEM and EPMA.
Grading: The final grade will be based upon
(1) weekly problem sets and lab exercises (40%)
(2) weekly quizzes (25%)
(3) lab practical exams (25%)
(4) Research project report (10%)
Assignment of grades will follow the general 90-100%=A, 80-90%=B, with the ‘border regions’ being AB, etc.

Instructor: John Fournelle, either 312 or 306 or 306A or 460, Cell 438-7480 (8AM-9PM). Formal “office hours” 11AM-noon, Monday. I am around a lot and additional times can be arranged. If you cannot find me, I may be elsewhere in Weeks Hall and available by calling my cell phone. Don't be shy in calling me!

Email: johnf@geology.wisc.edu
Class listserv: please use this to communicate questions you have! There is no such thing as a dumb question! Something you have some confusion about may well be stumping others to, so we all can learn. The address to send questions (and comments etc to the whole class) to is <geosci777-1-s19@lists.wisc.edu>

Reference books: (on reserve in the Geology Library)

And previous versions which have essential material NOT in the newest edition:

**2nd Edition is available on Amazon for under $14. A bargain! Better than the 3rd edition in some ways and the 4th in many ways!


1/21/2019