



Photo by Sarah Allen, Sarah Wiseman, and Nick Payton

materials science & solid state chemistry

mid-term self-reflection

INTRODUCTION

As you have probably noticed, self-directed learning is a big part of this course. Indeed, one of our course learning objectives is aimed directly at life-long learning skill building: *Demonstrate a capacity for self-directed learning, including goal-setting and selection of learning strategies, time and effort management, personal motivation, resource discovery, and self-reflection and self-assessment.*

To support this goal, I attempted to design the projects with room for you to explore and take control of your learning, within certain defined constraints. In addition, most of you specified personal learning goals at the start of the term – things that you wanted to get out of the experience.

For this assignment, I'd like you to spend some time reflecting on your learning thus far, and recording your thoughts in writing. How are things going? Are you making progress toward your goals? Are you taking control of your learning? Are you developing new knowledge, skills, or attitudes? Are you thinking differently about your learning? I would like to gain insight into how you're doing so far, and how the course may be helping (or hindering) your learning progress. I am particularly interested in how you may be gaining new abilities as a self-directed learner, and how our course format may be contributing to this.

WRITTEN REFLECTION

Please provide a brief (about a page) written reflection on your experiences thus far in the course. Some aspects of the course experience that you may consider reflecting upon include the following:

- *Your personal learning goals.* Are you making progress toward your goals? Are your goals changing? How are you evaluating progress toward your goals?
- *Your attitudes, motivations, and behaviors:* What are you learning about your personal beliefs or attitudes toward learning? What aspects of the course do you find intrinsically motivating, or personally relevant or valuable? What strategies are you using to maintain perseverance, motivation, and interest? How are you managing your time and effort?

- *Your interactions with others:* How the teamwork going? How are your peer interactions affecting your engagement or learning in the course? Do your instructor interactions have any effects on your learning approaches or outcomes? Are you gaining any new insights or skills with regard to collaboration?
- *Your thinking, and your thinking about your thinking (cognitive and metacognitive skills):* Are you gaining any insights into your own learning processes? Are you getting better at setting goals, selecting learning strategies, finding and using resources, diagnosing problems, monitoring and adapting your approaches, or self-evaluating outcomes?

IMPORTANT: This is your reflection, so please make it work for you. Comment only on the things you feel are relevant to your experience.

I'm thinking the length of this assignment will be about a page, but please don't get too hung up on a specific length. I won't be grading your self-reflection in the traditional sense – you'll get full credit if you submit a thoughtful written reflection. I just want to learn how this course is contributing (or not) toward your development. Send your reflection as a word document, pdf, or google document (via web link). Please email your reflection to me by **midnight on Tuesday, March 24.**