CLAIMS:

1. A heterogeneous catalyst comprising a support and gold, wherein: (i) said support comprises silica and 0.1 to 90 wt% titanium, (ii) said catalyst comprises: from 0.1 to 5 wt% of gold, and from 0.1 to 10 wt.% of magnesium, and from 0.1 to 10 wt.% of at least one of cobalt or zinc, and (iii) particles of the catalyst have an average diameter from 200 microns to 30 mm; wherein weight percentages are based on weight of the catalyst.

2. The catalyst of claim 1 in which at least 90 wt% of the gold is in the outer 60% of catalyst volume.

3. The catalyst of claim 2 in particles of the catalyst have an average diameter from 300 microns to 20 mm.

4. A method for preparing methyl methacrylate from methacrolein and methanol; said method comprising contacting a mixture comprising methacrolein, methanol and oxygen with a catalyst bed comprising a heterogeneous catalyst as defined in any of claims 1-3.