

Fall Semester 2021
San Jose State University
Department of Nuclear Science/Chemistry
Radiation Safety, Chem 121S, NucSci 121S & Phys 121S; 1 Unit

Instructor: Victor Maraschin
Office Location: DH 181
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Office hours: Thursday 2PM – 3PM
Or by appointment; Zoom sessions are available too.
Class Days/Time: Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 AM
Classroom: DH-181
Prerequisites: Lower division Chem, Physics, and Calculus or instructors' consent
Course Website None... I will be posting grades either on SJSU Canvas OR on the window by my office with you student class ID number.

Course Description

Health hazards involved in working with radioactive substances. Physical nature of hazards, biological effects, standards of permissible exposures, safety precautions and protection techniques. Two units meet State of California recommendations. Prerequisite: Lower division calculus, chemistry and physics.

Course Goals and Learning Objective

Building awareness of what materials around us are radioactive and how to handle lab situations that involve radioactive materials, and demonstrations of detection methods of materials.

Text/Readings

None

Other References (No need to purchase)

Introduction to Health Physics, 3rd Ed., by Herman Cember., McGraw-Hill, 1996.

Principles of Radiological Health and Safety by Martin, James E. & Lee, Chul., John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Hoboken NJ 2003

Course Requirements and Assignments

Graded work will include a total of a class participation, midterm, lab reports and a final exam. Midterm answer sheets will be provided the actual exam will be kept by the instructor; review of your exam can be done by appointment only.

Labs procedures will be handed out in class and discussed briefly.

Lab write-ups format will follow the handout on Memoranda Reports. ALL LAB ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE AT THE BEGINNING OF LECTURE THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

Assignments	Points
Presentations	50
Midterm	25
Labs (3)	75 total
Final	50
Total	200

Final Examination

The final will be comprehensive including labs.

Determination of Grades

Points will be distributed as described in Course Requirements and Assignments above. I reserve the right to scale exam grades. If scaled, each exam will be given a raw score and a scaled score. The raw score will reflect your performance on that material as compared with your classmates. The scaled score will be used to calculate your final grade. Scores will never be scaled down from your raw score. I reserve the right to adjust this in either direction if, in my estimation, the class overall performed differently than a “typical” class. The course grade will be determined from the resulting average of the point total as follows:

Percent of total points	Final course grade
96 +	A+
92 – 95.9	A
88 – 91.9	A-

84 – 87.9	B+
80 – 83.9	B
76 – 79.9	B-
72 – 75.9	C+
68 – 71.9	C
64 – 67.9	C-
60 – 63.9	D+
56 – 59.9	D
52 – 55.9	D-
<52	

Missed Exams and Group Activities

If an exam or quiz is missed without a legitimate excuse a scaled score of 0 will be entered for that exam. In no case will a make-up exam or in-class activity be given. Contact me in advance if you will miss a group activity or exam date for a legitimate activity.

Tentative Schedule – I reserve the right to change the schedule to fit the needs of SJSU.

Week	Date	Lecture	Lab Activity
1	8/20	Introduction	
2	8/27	Radiation Safety	
3	9/3	Radiation Safety	
4	9/10	Lab #1 GM Detectors	Lab #1: Survey of lab contamination
5	9/17	Radiation Safety	Lab report #1 due
6	9/24	Open	
7	10/1	Lab #2 Half-life/Thickness	Half-life/Unknown Thickness
8	10/8	Mid term	Lab report #2 due
9	10/15	Radiation Safety	
10	10/22	Special Topics	
11	10/29	Lab #3 Detector Efficiencies	
12	11/5	Oral presentations	
13	11/12	Oral presentations	Lab report #3 due
14	11/19	Oral presentations	
15	11/26	No class	Turkey day recovery
16	12/3	Selected Topics/Review	
Final exam	12/8	Final	9:45 - Noon
	12/13	Grades available at noon	