Review of ENVIR SCI 522 (James and Mariadoss)

ENVIR SCI 522: Radiation Biology and Ecology; new 3 credit course

This is an elective course in a new graduate certificate program in radiation protection. Course objectives are well stated except for the first objective, which is somewhat vague and teaching, rather than learning centered. It reads…” *Students will understand the biology and physics of the irradiation of living systems using…”* A learning centered objective would be more apt e.g. *Students will be able to (do something after taking the course):*

*… analyze, criticize, produce, explain, identify*

Both the prerequisites classes and recommended courses seem appropriate. As prerequisites, students need to have 3 semester hours of general biology and ENVR 406 or equivalent. If not, the instructor’s permission is required. “Recommended courses” are cell biology, genetics, and differential equations. However, there is no indication about whether or not these are graduate or undergraduate courses. This needs clarification.

Student performance will be evaluated based on two written assignments, each worth 90 points, two oral presentations worth 100 pints apiece, and 20 points for class participation. There is neither reference to penalties for late work and absences, nor the bases for participation points. On page two, column two there should there should be some sort of assurance that each week (as mentioned in page 3) is covered in one of the SLO rows. The first learning outcome lacks the same specificity of the course objective and could be rewritten. Statements about accommodations for disabled students, academic integrity, and safety are written as per university policy.

This course meets the requirements for the graduate experience at WSU. I would move that it be accepted except for the minor adjustments suggested in this report.