Review of ENVIR SCI 523 (James an Slaker)

ENVIR SCI 523 titled Radiation Biology & Ecology is an elective course in a new graduate certificate program in radiation protection.

There are no prerequisites for this course, although required preparation is ENVIR SCI 406 or permission of the instructor. Thus, the section on ‘Required preparation’ should be renamed prerequisites.

A few objectives need to be more action oriented. The second objective *“to understand the scientific bases* …” is too vague and is teaching, rather than learning oriented. Alearning centered objective would be more appropriate e.g. *Students will be able to do something after taking the course:-- analyze, criticize, produce, explain, identify .* The same adjustments need to be made to the learning outcomes and their elaborations in the segment titled ‘Laboratory’. The outcomes ‘learn,’ and ‘study,’ are weak.

The statement that ‘no particular grading scale is assumed’ should be removed because there actually is a grading scale. Students taking this course will be evaluated on their performance on 14 lab exercises, a midterm and a final exam. Statements about accommodations for disabled students, academic integrity, and safety are written as per university policy. In the course organization section there are no references to textbook chapters associated with the various weekly topics.

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.