

## HPS 402/602 Radiation Detection

### Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

Email:

Office Hours:

### Prerequisite:

- HPS 402: HPS 300 or consent of instructor
- HPS 602: HPS/RDCH 701 or consent of instructor

### Description:

- Principles of radiation detection and measurement
- Introduction to nuclear spectrometry and instrumentation
- Counting statistics and data interpretation

### Schedule

Monday & Wednesday      10:00 – 11:15 AM      Room MPE 104

### Recommended Textbook

Knoll, G. F., *Radiation Detection and Measurement*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, John Wiley (2010)

### Supplemental Textbooks

- Tsoulfanidis, N., Landsberger, S., *Measurement and Detection of Radiation*, 4th Edition, CRC Press (2015)
- Ahmed, S.N., *Physics & Engineering of Radiation Detection*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Elsevier (2014)
- L'Annunziata, M.F., *Handbook of Radioactivity Analysis*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Academic Press (2003)
- Gilmore, G., *Practical Gamma-Ray Spectrometry*, John Wiley (2008)
- Turner, J.E., Downing, D.J., Bogard, J.S., *Statistical Methods in Radiation Physics*, Wiley-VCH (2012)

### Teaching Methods

- In-person classes (Room MPE 104)
- Webex lectures with handouts, slides, and MS onenotes (remote learning mode)

- Problem-solving in groups and as individuals

### Evaluation Methods

Accomplishment of course objectives will be assessed by completing the following tasks:

Graded Items	HPS 402	HPS 602
Homework	40%	40%
Midterm Exam	30%	30%
Final Exam	30%	30%

### Grading Scale

Letter grades for this class will be based on the following grading scale:

Grade Points	Letter Grade
$\geq 94$	A
90-94	A-
87-90	B+
84-87	B
80-84	B-
77-80	C+
74-77	C
70-74	C-
67-70	D+
64-67	D
60-64	D-
$< 60$	F

### Course Objectives

The student is expected to gain a basic understanding of the concepts and applications of radiation detection. The knowledge gained by the student in this course can be applied to the daily professional

activities of a practicing radiochemist, nuclear engineer, health or medical physicist. After successful completion of this class the student is expected to be able to perform the activities listed below:

1. Explain the different radiation interaction mechanisms.
2. Use statistical methods to determine the uncertainty in measured values.
3. Combine uncertainties associated with radiation detection and sample preparation
4. Explain the general properties of radiation detectors/dosimeters typically found in the workplace.
5. Explain the operation of gas-filled radiation detectors and distinguish the appropriate type of instrument for a given application.
6. Explain the operation of scintillation and semiconductor detectors and distinguish the appropriate type of instrument for a given application.
7. Explain the operation and use of equipment used to detect slow and fast neutrons, and their limitations.
8. Explain the principles of gamma-ray and alpha spectrometry in analyzing the composition of radioactive samples.
9. Understand the signal processing associated with radiation detection.
10. List the sources of radiation backgrounds and design methods/components to reduce it.

### **Homework**

Homework assignments will be typically be assigned each week. They may consist of problem sets, group assignments and/or “mini-projects.” Students need to submit the completed assignment before midnight on Friday.

### **Exams**

Examinations will consist of problem sets and short answer questions. Exams will be closed book. Students are expected to know the material well. Students must take each examination at the scheduled time. If a student is unable to take an examination at the scheduled time, the student must contact the course instructor in advance in writing to inform him that they will need to take the exam early. Failure to take an exam will result in a score of zero points for the exam. Students must take the final exam at the scheduled time without exception.

## University Policies

### Public Health Directives

Face coverings are currently mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), [https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

### Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

### Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

### Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established

requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

## **Copyright**

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

## **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

## **Final Examinations**

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

## **Identity Verification in Online Courses**

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

## **Incomplete Grades**

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

## **Library Resources**

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](#) website,

<https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](#) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

## **Missed Classwork**

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

## **Rebelmail**

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

## **Tutoring and Coaching**

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

## **UNLV Writing Center**

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

## **Diversity Statement**

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view,



acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

### **UNLV Land Acknowledgement**

UNLV is situated on the traditional homelands of Indigenous groups, including the Nuwu or Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People, descendants of the Tudu, or Desert People. We honor and offer gratitude for those who have stewarded the land; for the land itself; and for the opportunity to cultivate a thriving, diverse, inclusive, and just scholarly community here today that works for a better tomorrow for all.

## Tentative Outline of Instruction

01/17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess
01/19	Introduction
01/24	Radiation Sources I
01/26	Radiation Sources II
01/31	Radiation Interactions I
02/02	Radiation Interactions II
02/07	Radiation Interactions III
02/09	Counting Statistics and Error Propagation I
02/15	Counting Statistics and Error Propagation II
02/17	Counting Statistics and Error Propagation III
02/21	President's Day Recess
02/23	Counting Statistics and Error Propagation IV
02/28	General Properties of Radiation Detectors I
03/02	General Properties of Radiation Detectors II
03/07	General Properties of Radiation Detectors III
03/09	Midterm Exam
03/14	Spring Break
03/16	Spring Break
03/21	Gas-filled Detectors, Ion Chambers,
03/23	Proportional Counters, Geiger Mueller Counters
03/28	Scintillation Detector Principles
03/30	Applications of Liquid Scintillation Counting
04/04	Photomultiplier Tubes
04/06	Radiation Spectroscopy with Scintillators I
04/11	Radiation Spectroscopy with Scintillators II
04/13	Semiconductor Diode Detectors
04/18	Semiconductor Diode Detectors/Alpha Spectroscopy
04/20	Germanium Gamma-Ray Detectors I
04/25	Germanium Gamma-Ray Detectors II
04/27	Neutron Detectors I
05/02	Neutron Detectors II
05/04	Background and Detector Shielding
05/09	Final Exam