



W

ENV H 405

TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HUMAN HEALTH

M/W/F 1:30–2:20 pm | 3 cr

Instructor: Judit Marsillach

Open to all majors

Prerequisites: BIOL 220, and CHEM 220, CHEM 224, CHEM 238, or CHEM 336

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Judit Marsillach (*she/her/hers*), Assistant Professor
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS)

Contact: [jmarsi@uw.edu](mailto:jmars@uw.edu)

Office hours: By appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Allison Clonch, acclonch@uw.edu (*she/her/hers*), Office hours: By appointment

COURSE TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lecture: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm
Magnuson Health Sciences Center T (HST), T-360

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish people of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

COVID-RELATED EXPECTATIONS

Per UW policy, this class will be conducted in person. You should only register for this class if you can attend in person, or if you meet the criteria for an accommodation from Disability Resources for Students (DRS) or a special arrangement approved by the SPH Office of the Dean that allows you to take the course remotely.

- > Please [contact UW Disability Resources for Students \(DRS\)](#) directly if you feel you may be eligible for an accommodation based on your status as an immunocompromised individual or based on other diagnosed physical or mental health conditions that might prevent you from being able to take classes in-person.
- > If you are a student enrolled in a program in SPH, and you are either living with an individual who is immunocompromised, OR you are unable to obtain a visa to travel to the US, you may be eligible for a “special arrangement” that will allow you to take this course remotely. To further clarify, immunocompromised refers to individuals with no/critically weakened immune response to the vaccines. Immune compromised is not the same as underlying health concerns which may lead to a more severe response to COVID. Requests for special arrangements to take the class remotely should have been submitted to and approved by the Students and Academic Services team in the Office of the Dean before the beginning of the quarter. If you have questions about this type of arrangement, please reach out to Student and Academic Services by email at sphas@uw.edu.

All UW students are expected to complete their [vaccine attestation](#) before arriving on campus. [Per President Cauce’s message March 8](#), following changes to state and local health policies, masks will become optional inside most University facilities starting March 28, the first day of spring quarter. Masks will continue to be required in clinical and other health-care settings and on public transportation, including UW shuttles. We strongly recommend wearing masks indoors during the first two weeks of spring quarter. Please monitor yourself daily for symptoms and stay home if you are sick. It’s also strongly recommended to get tested after travel. Refer to the [UW Face Covering Policy](#) for the latest guidance and follow the campus-wide face-covering policy at all times. You are

expected to follow state, local, and UW COVID-19 policies and recommendations. If you feel ill or exhibit possible COVID symptoms, you should not come to class. If you need to temporarily quarantine or isolate per CDC guidance and/or [campus policy](#), you are responsible for notifying your instructors as soon as possible by email. **If you receive a positive COVID-19 test result, you must report to campus Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) by emailing covidehc@uw.edu or calling 206-626-3344.**

Please check your email daily BEFORE coming to class. If we need to conduct class remotely because the instructor or a guest speaker is complying with UW policies and unable to attend in person, we will send all registered students an email with a Zoom link for remote instruction. Thank you for your patience and support as we try to maintain in-person learning while staying safe!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to ENV H 405! This course will survey the most important concepts in toxicology, with a focus on the impact of chemicals on human and environmental health. Topics include principles underlying dose-response relationships, absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination, followed by lectures on specific topics, including damage to major organs, cancer, birth defects, occupational hazards, and risk assessment and government regulation of environmental contaminants.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- > Understand the basics of toxicant absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion.
- > Gain an appreciation for how environmental toxicants interact with cellular pathways leading to the development of disease.
- > Become comfortable critically evaluating, discussing, and presenting current events relevant to the field of toxicology.
- > Reflect on the relevance of the field of toxicology to you as a scientist and as a proactive member of society.

COURSE FORMAT

Over the course, there will be content posted on Canvas to work on before and/or after each session. The expectation is that students come to class having already reviewed any content and completed any quizzes for each session. Participation (questions and comments) during the class is highly encouraged. All sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas for instructional purposes related to this class. Students are not permitted to copy or share the recording with others. If you have privacy concerns about Zoom recordings in this class, please contact the course instructor. There will be experts in some of the proposed topics providing guest lectures throughout the course.

The instructor welcomes any feedback you may have to improve their teaching and this course.

USEFUL TEXTBOOKS & READINGS

Useful Textbooks:

- > Casarett & Doull's Essentials of Toxicology, 4th Edition, Curtis D. Klaassen & John B Watkins III, McGraw Hill, 2021.

(This textbook is available as an eBook through the UW Libraries, or through this [website](#))

- > Introduction to Toxicology, 3rd Edition by John Timbrell, Taylor & Francis, 2002.

Recommended, optional, or supplementary readings

Most required readings will be available as Canvas Pages or Adobe Acrobat files that can be viewed on Canvas or downloaded. In some cases, the readings may be links to websites. Videos will also be available on Canvas Pages.

GRADING

Final grades will be determined by:

- > Weekly quizzes (30%)
- > Assignments (20%): Toxicology in the News (see below)
- > Individual Project (35%): Pick your poison Project (see below)
- > Final assessment (15%)

Toxicology in the News: You will be randomly assigned a date to post about a current (within the past 3 months) toxicology-related event found on newspapers, the news, or reliable online websites. The goal for this assignment is to illustrate how relevant toxicology is in our lives. Further details will be provided on Canvas and during the first session.

Pick your poison Project: You will pick a toxicant that you are interested in (it can be from toxicants that may be relevant from the area you were born to toxicants that you have seen on the news or that you are interested in learning more about them). You will pick this toxicant within the first 2 weeks of the quarter and develop your Project as you learn new concepts and toxicology aspects related to the toxicant selected. Feedback will be provided throughout the course. At the end of the quarter, you will submit a final report. Further details will be provided on Canvas.

To avoid having more than one student writing a project on the same toxicant, be sure to have your toxicant approved by the instructor as soon as it is chosen.

Grading Criteria

A 4.0 scale will be calculated using the following conversion:

4.0 Scale	Percentage	4.0 Scale	Percentage	4.0 Scale	Percentage
4.0	≥ 98.0%	2.8	< 84.7%	1.6	< 71.2%
3.9	< 97.0%	2.7	< 83.5%	1.5	< 70.1%
3.8	< 95.9%	2.6	< 82.4%	1.4	< 69.0%
3.7	< 94.8%	2.5	< 81.3%	1.3	< 67.8%
3.6	< 93.6%	2.4	< 80.2%	1.2	< 66.7%
3.5	< 92.5%	2.3	< 79.1%	1.1	< 65.6%
3.4	< 91.4%	2.2	< 77.9%	1.0	< 64.5%
3.3	< 90.3%	2.1	< 76.8%	0.9	< 64.3%
3.2	< 89.2%	2.0	< 75.7%	0.8	< 62.2%
3.1	< 88.0%	1.9	< 74.6%	0.7	< 61.1%
3.0	< 86.9%	1.8	< 73.5%	0.6	< 60.0%
2.9	< 85.8%	1.7	< 72.3%		

Late assignment policy

All quizzes, assignments, and individual projects must be submitted through Canvas by the due date. Please, reach out to us if you cannot submit an assignment on time. The instructor understands that in some instances, certain personal situations may make it impossible to submit a specific material on time. For this reason, there is no penalty for the submission of late assignments, but the instructor reserves the right to institute a penalty of 10% if students do not submit materials within the required timeframe on multiple occasions.

COURSE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative lecture schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and/or posted on Canvas.

Date	Topic	Guest Instructor
3/28	Overview/History of Toxicology	
3/30	Basic Principles of Toxicology	
4/1	Biological Disposition I-absorption, distribution	
4/4	Biological Disposition II – biotransformation	
4/6	Biological Disposition III – excretion	
4/8	Toxicity Testing Procedures	
4/11	Mechanisms/Factors that Modify Responses	
4/13	Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology	Mr. Brad Hansen
4/15	Hepatotoxicity	Dr. Julia Cui
4/18	Neurotoxicology	
4/20	Pulmonary Toxicology	Dr. Terrance Kavanagh
4/22	GI Toxicology and the Microbiome	Dr. Julia Cui
4/25	Genetic Toxicology	
4/27	Chemical Carcinogenesis	
4/29	Ecotoxicology	
5/2	Exam (mid-term)	
5/4	Pesticides I	
5/6	Pesticides II	
5/9	Occupational Toxicology	Dr. Marissa Baker

Date	Topic	Guest Instructor
5/11	Food Additives and Contaminants	
5/13	Toxic Metals I	Dr. Hao Wang
5/16	Toxic Metals II	Dr. Hao Wang
5/18	Natural Toxins	
5/20	Drugs as Toxicants	
5/23	Household Products	
5/25	Regulatory Toxicology	Dr. Daniella Pizzurro
5/27	Review Session for final exam	
5/30	Memorial Day - no class	
6/1	Risk Assessment I	
6/3	Risk Assessment II	
6/6	Final Exam	

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Communication through writing and speaking is an important transferable skill for all career pathways. Establishing a strong foundation in communication skills will help you be successful throughout your future course work and career. Therefore, this course includes assignments with the goal to help you identify areas of strength and improvement in your communication. If you feel that you could benefit from additional opportunities to improve your writing skills in particular, a list of resources at the UW and others accessible online can be found on the SPH website at <https://sph.washington.edu/sites/default/files/inline-files/Writing-Resources-4.3.19.pdf>.

IMPORTANT POLICIES & RESOURCES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity.

The UW School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington [Student Conduct Code \(WAC 478-121\)](#). We expect you to know and follow the university's policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the [SPH Academic Integrity Policy](#). Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. For more information, see the University of Washington [Community Standards and Student Conduct](#).

ACCESS AND ACCOMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate your accommodations via myDRS so we can discuss how they will be implemented in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), contact DRS directly to set up an Access Plan. DRS facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations. Contact DRS at disability.uw.edu.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMODATIONS

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI)

Diverse backgrounds, embodiments and experiences are essential to the critical thinking endeavor at the heart of University education. In SPH, we are expected:

1. To respect individual differences, which may include, but are not limited to, age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and veteran status.
2. To engage respectfully in the discussion of diverse worldviews and ideologies embedded in course readings, presentations and artifacts, including those course materials that are at odds with personal beliefs and values.
3. To encourage students with concerns about classroom climate to talk to their instructor, adviser, a member of the departmental or SPH EDI Committee, the Assistant Dean for EDI, or the program's director.

CLASSROOM CLIMATE

We are co-creators of our learning environment. It is our collective responsibility to develop a supportive learning environment for everyone. Listening with respect and an open mind, striving to understand others' views, and articulating your own point of view will help foster the creation of this environment. We engage our differences with the intent to build community, not to put down the other and distance our self from the other. Being mindful to not monopolize discussion and/or interrupt others will also help foster a dialogic environment.

The following guidelines can add to the richness of our discussion:

- > We assume that persons are always doing the best that they can, including the persons in this learning environment.

- > We acknowledge that systematic oppression exists based on privileged positions and specific to race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, and other social variables and identities.
- > We posit that assigning blame to persons in socially marginal positions is counter-productive to our practice. We can learn much about the dominant culture by looking at how it constructs the lives of those on its social margins.
- > While we may question or take issue with another class member's ideology, we will not demean, devalue, or attempt to humiliate another person based on her/his experiences, value system, or construction of meaning.
- > We have a professional obligation to actively challenge myths and stereotypes about our own groups and other groups so we can break down the walls that prohibit group cooperation and growth.

[Adapted from Lynn Weber Cannon (1990). Fostering positive race, class and gender dynamics in the classroom. *Women Studies Quarterly*, 1 & 2, 126-134.]

We are a learning community. As such, we are expected to engage with difference. Part of functioning as a learning community is to engage in dialogue in respectful ways that supports learning for all of us and that holds us accountable to each other. Our learning community asks us to trust and take risks in being vulnerable.

Here are some guidelines that we try to use in our learning process:

- > LISTEN WELL and be present to each member of our group and class.
- > Assume that I might miss things others see and see things others miss.
- > Raise my views in such a way that I encourage others to raise theirs.
- > Inquire into others' views while inviting them to inquire into mine.
- > Extend the same listening to others I would wish them to extend to me.
- > Surface my feelings in such a way that I make it easier for others to surface theirs.
- > Regard my views as a perspective onto the world, not the world itself.
- > Beware of either-or thinking.
- > Beware of my assumptions of others and their motivations.
- > Test my assumptions about how and why people say or do things.
- > Be authentic in my engagement with all members of our class.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

We share our pronouns because we strive to cultivate an inclusive environment where people of all genders feel safe and respected. We cannot assume we know someone's gender just by looking at them. So we invite everyone to share their pronouns.

BIAS CONCERNS

The Office of the Dean has a [student concern policy](#), a faculty concern policy and standard HR procedures for staff concerns. Our 2018 climate survey states that most people in SPH do not report bias incidents because they do not know where to go. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of bias to someone they feel comfortable with, including instructors, advisers or department staff. They can email dcinfo@uw.edu for immediate follow up. Bias concerns can be anonymously and confidentially reported at this [link https://sph.washington.edu/about/diversity/bias-concerns](https://sph.washington.edu/about/diversity/bias-concerns). Data is collected by the Assistant

Dean for EDI and the Director of Program Operations for Student and Academic Services and tracked for resolution and areas are identified for further training.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment based on the recipient's sex that is characterized by:

1. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a person who has authority over the recipient when:
 - > Submission to such conduct is an implicit or explicit condition of the individual's employment, academic status, or ability to use University facilities and services, or
 - > Submission to or rejection of the conduct affects tangible aspects of the individual's employment, academic status, or use of University facilities.
2. Unwelcome and unsolicited language or conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or learning environment, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic or work performance.

If you believe that you are being harassed, or have observed harassment, you can report it to SPH using the [bias concerns link](#). The University also has designated offices to help you: [SafeCampus](#); [Office of the Ombud](#); [Title IX Investigation Office](#); and [University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office](#).