Advanced Reactor Materials and Materials Performance

NE 795-014

Fall 2023

Tues./Thurs. 1:30PM-2:45PM

1202 Burlington

1. **Instructor**

Dr. Benjamin Beeler

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919-515-3737

Burlington 1110C

Office Hours: Wed. 9:00-10:00 am

1. **Course Overview**

In this course we will study the behavior of nuclear materials in advanced reactor environments. Students will be introduced to different advanced reactor systems and the materials that are either currently deployed, or plan to be deployed, within those reactors. Specific material phenomena and material evolution will be particularly emphasized, including, but not limited to: fission gas swelling, constituent redistribution, fission product attack, fission gas bubble superlattice, recrystallization, actinide salt chemistry, and radiation damage accumulation. A particular emphasis will be placed upon advanced fuel forms; however, this course will also address advanced cladding and coolant systems.

1. **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify key phenomena affecting the performance of advanced reactor materials
2. Understand the different stages of microstructural evolution in advanced reactor materials
3. Understand the role of reactor environment on material selection
4. Identify key areas delineating light water reactor and advanced reactor material evolution
5. **Pre- or Co-Requisites**

NE 509

1. **Required Text(s)**

None.

Supplemental texts:

Comprehensive Nuclear Materials, R. Konings

Light Water Reactor Materials, Vol. 1 Fundamentals, D. Olander and A. Motta

Fundamentals of Radiation Materials Science, G. Was

An Introduction to Nuclear Materials, K. Murty and I. Charit

1. **Course Requirements**

Examinations: 4 Quizzes: 20% each

Project Presentation: 20 %

1. **Topical Outline:**

The below topical outline is a general, non-inclusive list of topics that can be covered within this course. This topic list is subject to change and is included to provide an example of topics of interest.

* 1. Introduction and Overview (1 week)
  2. Module 1: High Temperature Gas Reactors (3 weeks)
  3. Module 2: Sodium Cooled Fast Reactors (3 weeks)
  4. Module 3: Molten salts (1 week); Non-oxide ceramic fuels (2 weeks)
  5. Module 4: Research Reactor fuels (2 weeks); Advanced cladding (1 week)
  6. Module 5: (Optional): Alternate Reactor Concepts

1. **Grading**

Letter Grade Percent Grade

A+ 98-100; A 93-97; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F Below 60