

Dr. P. M. Armenante  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
August 27, 2025

## Pharmaceutical Unit Operations: Processing of Liquid and Dispersed-Phase Systems – PhEn 603

### Syllabus

- Term:** 2025 Fall Semester
- NJIT Course Title:** Pharmaceutical Unit Operations: Processing of Liquid and Dispersed-Phase Systems
- NJIT Course Number:** PhEn 603, Section 101
- Course Day and Time:** Monday, 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.
- Classroom:** Faculty Memorial Hall (FMH), Room 409
- Course Instructor:** Piero M. Armenante, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Master Teacher  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
Otto H. York Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering  
Newark, NJ 07102
- Office: YCEES Building - Room 120  
Telephone: (973) 596-3548; **Mobile: (908) 347-8734 (preferred)**  
Fax: (973) 596-8436  
E-Mail Address: [piero.armenante@njit.edu](mailto:piero.armenante@njit.edu)
- Availability of Instructor:** In-person meetings: Monday, 5:00-6:00 pm; meeting room: 374 Tiernan Hall (office). Students can additionally e-mail me to set up appointments outside office hours, possibly to be conducted via Zoom online if needed.
- Teaching Assistant (TA):** TBA
- TA's Office Hours:** TBA
- Computer Software Requirements and Access:**
- NJIT e-mail account, including UCID and password, to access:
    - Canvas (<https://canvas.njit.edu/>)
    - Zoom (<https://njit-edu.zoom.us/>)
  - Web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc. - Internet Explorer is not recommended)
  - Adobe Acrobat (freeware)
  - Other common software to complete assignments (e.g., Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, etc.)
- Course Notes, Textbooks, and Other Reference Material:**
- **Course Lectures:** Armenante, P. M., 2025, *PhEn 603-Pharmaceutical Unit Operations: Processing of Liquid and Dispersed-Phase Systems Course Lectures*. The *Lectures* are videos containing course lectures identical in content and length to the face-to-face PhEn 603 lectures routinely offered at NJIT. The *Lectures* are available through Canvas and can be accessed as described below

- **Course Notes:** Armenante, P. M., 2025, *PhEn 603-Pharmaceutical Unit Operations: Processing of Liquid and Dispersed-Phase Systems: Course Notes*. The *Notes* are exact duplicates of the overheads used in the lectures. The *Notes* are also available through Canvas and can be accessed as described below.
- **Textbooks:** The following books are suggested but **not** required as textbooks:
  - McCabe, W. L., Smith, J. C. and Harriott, P., 2005, *Unit Operations of Chemical Engineering*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill, New York.
  - am Ende, M. T. and am Ende, D. J. (Eds.), 2019, *Chemical Engineering in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Drug Product Design, Development, and Modeling*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.
  - am Ende, D. J. and am Ende, M. T. (Eds.), 2019, *Chemical Engineering in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.
- A list of additional reference books (not required) is attached.

#### **Availability of Course Notes, Homework Assignments, Textbook, and References:**

- Links to the *Course Lectures* are available to the students through Canvas. Students can access Canvas directly by going to <https://canvas.njit.edu/> and following the instructions there. Once the appropriate course is selected, students will be able to watch streaming videos of the *Lectures* for that class period by clicking on the appropriate links
- The *Course Notes* can be downloaded from the NJIT website using Canvas, as described above. The *Course Notes* will be posted on the internet as PDF files
- The homework, homework solutions, and projects will be posted through Canvas as appropriate, depending on the material covered in that week (typically but not always on a weekly basis)
- Additional material (e.g., videos, reading material, etc.) will be posted through Canvas as appropriate
- If students experience problems and they are unable to log in or access the course material, they should contact the NJIT Helpdesk at 973-596-2900
- The textbook is available in the NJIT bookstore (973-596-3200; <http://www.bkstr.com/njitstore/home>) or from the publishers
- Most additional references (not required as textbooks) as well as the textbooks are available in most university libraries and have been being placed on reserve at the NJIT library.

#### **Zoom Sessions:**

- Zoom sessions are long distance conference calls, conducted via computer, that will enable students to meet (i.e., talk, show material, etc.) with the course instructor and the other students in the class
- Zoom sessions will be held as needed, either one-on-one or as a forum to discuss topics covered in class, address questions, review selected homework, clarify examples, etc.
- In order to use Zoom students should first visit <https://njit-edu.zoom.us/>, click on the “Participating in a Zoom Session” link, retrieve the PDF file with detailed instructions, and read it
- <https://njit-edu.zoom.us/> Remark: students do **not** need to open a Zoom account to attend a Zoom session

#### **Course Prerequisites:**

- **PhEn and ChE Students:** Currently, students are admitted to the PhEn program if they have baccalaureate degree in chemical engineering or equivalent with a minimum GPA of 3.0. This is a satisfactory prerequisite for this course. Students with undergraduate degrees in biology, chemistry, physics, and equivalent who are admitted to the PhEn program on condition that they additional take undergraduate courses, specified at the time of admission, must have taken and successfully completed those courses. *Students who do not have the necessary prerequisites should drop the course.* Additionally, PhEn 601 is recommended but not required as a prerequisite.
- **Non-PhEn and non-ChE Students:** Students with appropriate engineering backgrounds (e.g., BME, ME) can also take this course. Students with non-engineering background should have the *appropriate background* in math (up to differential equations), mass and energy balances, fluid flow, heat transfer, and mass transfer in order to be able to follow the course. Therefore, they

should talk to Prof. Armenante to make sure that they are adequately prepared for this course before taking it. Additionally, PhEn 601 is recommended but not required as a prerequisite.

**Course Objective:** This course is one of the common core courses for the Pharmaceutical Engineering MS Degree Programs. The main objective of the course is to examine methodologies, both applied and fundamental, to analyze and scale up pharmaceutical manufacturing processes involving liquid and dispersed-phase systems, such as liquid and multiphase mixing, sterilization and sanitation, filtration, centrifugation and others. The emphasis is primarily on the engineering aspects of the pharmaceutical processes examined in the course.

**Course Description:** This course covers state-of-the-art pharmaceutical processing involving primarily liquid and dispersed-phase systems, identifying underlying chemical process engineering principles and providing quantitative approaches to drug product manufacturing process design and optimization.

**Course Outline by Topic Areas:** Chemical/pharmaceutical development activities; sterilization and sanitation processes, aseptic manufacturing; sedimentation; centrifugation; filtration; processing of liquid systems and dispersed-phase systems; liquid mixing and dispersion fundamentals; liquid mixing calculations; solid-liquid suspensions; equipment selection and scale-up for homogeneous and dispersed-phase systems.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify, categorize, and describe the most relevant industrial operations and equipment encountered in the pharmaceutical industry to process liquids and dispersed phase systems
- Construct and assemble mathematical models (typically based on mass, energy and momentum balances) best suited to analyze the performance of each process and equipment components
- Identify critical parameters for the operation of the process and its equipment, device experiments to extract them from lab/pilot scale equipment, and analyze the results to quantify them
- Select, preliminarily design, size, and scale-up equipment needed to achieve the desired process objectives
- Examine, assess, and compare different equipment and process alternatives to achieve optimal desired process objectives.

**Course Requirements:**

- Examinations: Two exams, i.e., a midterm exam and a final exam
- Homework: Assigned by the instructor at the end of each classes
- Quizzes: Possibly, several very short quizzes on homework just completed
- Projects: One, or possibly two, short projects will be assigned after the midterm exam (see below for details)

**Grading Policy\*:**

• Midterm exam* .....	38%
• Final exam* .....	38%
• Homework.....	12%
• <u>Projects .....</u>	<u>12%</u>
Total .....	100%

(\*) Students performing very poorly on the exams will **fail** the course *irrespective* of their performance in the homework and projects, as specified below.

**Course Final Grade:** a tentative guideline for the assignment of final grades is the following:

<u>Cumulative Points</u>	<u>Overall Grade</u>
85-90 to 100%	A
70-75 to 85-90%	B/B+
60 to 70-75%	C/C+

50 to 60%  
0 to 50%

"D"  
F

The grade of "D" is not assigned to students taking graduate courses. Students averaging a cumulative point score corresponding to a "D" in the above table could receive either a C or an F, depending on their overall performance.

*Please remember that this is only a guideline designed to help the students understand how they are performing in the course. Dr. Armenante will feel free to change the grading scale (both ways) when assigning the final grades.*

**Important Remark:** Each exam (midterm and final) will be graded on a point scale from 0 to 100 (100 points in an exam=38% of the final grade; see above). However, **failing to achieve a combined average of at least 55/100 in the two exams** will imply **failing the course (F grade) irrespective of the points obtained through the homework and the projects.** In other words, students who perform extremely poorly in the exams will not be able to use the homework and the projects to pass the course. If this minimum requirement is satisfied, the final grade will be assigned based on the grading policy outlined above.

#### **Exams:**

- A calendar of exams is included in the Course Outline given below
- All exams are typically 3 hours long unless otherwise stated
- All exams are typically open-book and open-note. However, changes could be made and will be announced by the instructor prior to the exams
- No computers, telephones, i-Pads, etc. will be allowed during the exams
- Possible additional exam policy changes will be announced by the instructor prior to the exams
- The final exam will be on all material covered throughout the course (although the main emphasis of the exam will be on the material covered after the midterm exam);
- Make-up exams will only be given to students who cannot attend the regular exam time, *and only under documented and extraordinary circumstances*. In any case, no student will be allowed to take a make-up exam unless he/she has the prior consent of the instructor. *If a student will simply not come to an exam, the exam grade will automatically be zero.*
- Because of confidentiality issues, the Office of the **Dean of Students** now handles all issues related to **medical conditions** (including justification for postponing exams)

#### **Homework:**

- The homework will be posted on Canvas
- It will be assigned as appropriate (typically on a weekly basis), depending on the material covered in that week
- Students should turn in the homework by scanning it and attach it as a PDF file to an e-mail message addressed to the TA for the course
- The homework will not be returned to the students unless practical to do so
- No late homework will be accepted unless a valid reason is provided **in advance** (e.g., an upcoming business trip)
- Homework solutions will be posted on Canvas after the homework has been collected.

**Important Remark:** *Previous experience has clearly shown that those students who do not work on the assigned problems (or at least seriously try to solve them) typically perform very poorly on the exams.*

**Homework Grading:** The homework will be graded by the TA on the basis of the effort that the student puts into using solving it using a simplified grading scale, i.e., 0 (no or minimal effort); 5 (intermediate effort); 10 (significant effort). Any questions regarding homework grades should be discussed with the instructor.

**Projects:** Students will complete one, or possibly two, small projects, which will be assigned after the midterm exam and collected on the day of the final exam. The first project will consist of critically reviewing (critiquing) 2 papers published in scientific journals (as if the papers had been submitted for publication to the student). The papers will have to be related to each other and to be within the scope of the course. The students will be asked to write a short review of the papers. The student will have to justify whatever conclusions he/she may reach. The second project (if assigned) will consist of a small design problem for a case study assigned by the instructor. The problem will be open-ended to allow each student to come up with his/her own original design.

**Class Attendance:** As with all graduate courses at NJIT, attendance is not mandatory, but strongly recommended. Experience shows that students who do not regularly attend class typically perform poorly in the course. In addition, examples are worked out during the lectures. These examples are not in the *Course Notes*. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

**Time Commitment:** Students are expected to allocate some three to six hours per week to study and work on the assignments for this course.

**Code of Conduct, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity:** Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: : [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#). Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu). The approved "University Code of Academic Integrity" is currently in effect for all courses. All students are encouraged to look at the University Code of Academic Integrity and understand this document. Should a student fail a course due to a violation of academic integrity, they will be assigned the grade of "XF" rather than the "F," and this designation will remain permanently on their transcript. Students are expected to uphold the integrity of this institution by reporting any violation of academic integrity to the Office of the Dean of Students. The identity of the student filing the report will be kept anonymous. NJIT will continue to educate top tier students that are academically sound and are self-disciplined to uphold expected standards of professional integrity. ***Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.***

**Students with Disabilities:** NJIT adheres to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (ADA) of 1990. Appropriate accommodations are provided at no cost to the student. Additional questions should be directed to the NJIT Office of Accessibility Resources and Services. For further information, students should visit <https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>.

**Important Dates According to NJIT Calendar (Fall 2025):**

September	1	Monday	Labor Day. University Closed
September	2	Tuesday	First Day of Classes
September	8	Monday	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
September	8	Monday	Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal
September	9	Tuesday	W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals
September	15	Monday	Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial W
September	29	Monday	Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal
October	2	Thursday	Wellness Day
October	20	Monday	Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal
<b>November</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Last Day to Withdraw from Classes</b>
November	25	Tuesday	Thursday Classes Meet
November	26	Wednesday	Friday Classes Meet
November	27	Thursday	Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes
November	30	Sunday	Thanksgiving Recess Ends
December	11	Thursday	Last Day of Classes
December	12	Friday	Reading Day
December	13	Saturday	Saturday Classes Meet
December	14	Sunday	Final Exams Begin
December	20	Saturday	Final Exams End
December	22	Monday	Final Grades Due

Additional important dates are available at: <http://www.njit.edu/registrar/calendars/>.

## Course Outline (Fall 2025)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	September 8	Introduction Chemical/Pharmaceutical Development Activities Sterilization and sanitation processes
2	September 15	Sterilization and sanitation processes
3	September 22	Mathematical modeling of sterilization processes
4	September 29	Mathematical modeling of sterilization processes
5	October 6	Review of flow in confined systems
6	October 13	Filtration
7	October 20	Mathematical modeling of filtration processes
<b>8</b>	<b>October 27</b>	<b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>
9	November 3	Mathematical modeling of filtration processes
10	November 10	Sedimentation
11	November 17	Sedimentation Centrifugation
12	November 24	Processing of liquid systems and dispersed-phase systems
13	December 1	Liquid mixing and dispersion fundamentals Liquid mixing calculations
14	December 8	Equipment selection and scale-up of equipment for dispersed-phase systems
<b>15</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b>

**Important:** It is conceivable that some changes in the above outline will take place, depending on the overall performance of the class and the time actually required to cover the most important subjects of the course.

## Additional References

- *The United States Pharmacopoeia & The National Formulary. The Official Compendia of Standards, USP–NF 2024, Issue 1*, Pharmacopeial Convention Inc., May 2025
- *ISPE Baseline Pharmaceutical Engineering Guides* (the following volumes are available from ISPE; [www.ispe.org](http://www.ispe.org)):
  - Water and Steam Systems
  - Commissioning and Qualification
  - Packaging and Warehousing
  - Bulk Pharmaceutical Chemicals
  - Oral Solid Dosage Forms
  - Sterile Manufacturing Facilities
  - Biotechnology
  - R&D Facilities
  - Oral Liquids and Aerosols
- am Ende, M. T. and am Ende, D. J. (Eds.), 2019, *Chemical Engineering in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Drug Product Design, Development, and Modeling*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.
- am Ende, D. J. and am Ende, M. T. (Eds.), 2019, *Chemical Engineering in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.
- Michael Levin (ed.), *Pharmaceutical Process Scale-Up*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Informa Health Care, New York, 2011.
- Allen, L. V., Popovich, N. G., and Ansel, H. C., *Ansel's Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Publishers, 2010. [Remark: this is the textbook used in PhEn 601].
- Hickey, A. J. and Ganderton, D., *Pharmaceutical Process Engineering*, Marcel Dekker, New York, 2001.
- Banker, G. S. and Rhodes, C. T., *Modern Pharmaceutics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Marcel Dekker, New York, 1995.
- Lieberman, H. A., Rieger, M. M., and Banker, G. S. (eds.), *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms: Dispersed Systems*, Vol. 1 (1996); Vol. 2 (1996), Vol. 3, (1998), Marcel Dekker, New York.
- Lieberman, H. A., Lachman, L. and Schwartz, J. B. (eds.), *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms: Tablets*, Vol. 1 (1989); Vol. 2 (1990), Vol. 3 (1990), Marcel Dekker, New York.
- Avis, K. E. Lieberman, Lieberman, H. A., and Lachman, L. (eds.), *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms: Parenteral Medications*, Vol. 1 (1991); Vol. 2 (1992), Vol. 3 (1993), Marcel Dekker, New York.
- Cole, G., *Pharmaceutical Production Facilities: Design and Applications*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Taylor & Francis, 1998.
- Avis, K. E. and Wu, V. L. (eds.), *Biotechnology and Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing, Processing, and Preservation* (Vol. 2), Interpharm Press, 1996.
- Armenante, P. M. and A. Kirpekar, "Chapter 11: Sterilization in the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Industry," in *Handbook of Downstream Processing*, by E. Goldberg (editor), pp. 261-308, Chapman & Hall, New York, NY, 1997.
- Gennaro, A. R. (editor), *Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy*, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, 2000.
- Geankoplis, C. J., *Transport Processes and Unit Operations*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2003, Prentice Hall.
- McCabe, W. L., Smith, J. C. and Harriott, P., *Unit Operations of Chemical Engineering*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2005, McGraw-Hill.