**SYLLABUS**

**OPTI 595A**  
**Current Subjects in Optics**  
**Thursdays 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Meinel 307**

**Description of Course**

The purpose of Opti 595A is to introduce students to different aspects of current research in the field of optics. The students are expected to attend the weekly optical sciences colloquium and to write a minimum of a one page summary about each colloquium. A PDF of the summary is to be sent to Kristin Stone at kristinstone@optics.arizona.edu. Summaries are due by the start of next colloquium (Thursdays at 3:30 PM, Arizona Time).

**Writing Assignments:** For each colloquium, the students should answer the following questions:

- What is the topic? Why is this person talking about this subject matter? How is this relevant to the field of Optical Sciences & Engineering? Who is the main party of interest for this subject matter?
- What is interesting about the speaker's presentation? What is not interesting about the presentation? Was the presentation effective or did the presenter lose the audience early on in the presentation?
- Why is this subject important? Are the goals more science oriented or more engineering oriented?
- What have you learned from the presenter and the presentation?

**Dissertation Defense Attendance:** In addition to the weekly assignments, all students in the class will attend one Master's or PhD dissertation defense in the College of Optical Sciences and write a summary on the defense. For those of you who will not be able to attend a dissertation on campus, there are alternatives instead. The options are as follows:

- If you work at a place that has guest speakers and seminars, you may use one of those as the dissertation summary. In addition to the summary, you will need to send us a copy of the speaker's announcement.
- If you are attending a conference that has technical talks, then you can do a summary of the keynote, a plenary, or an invited talk at that conference. We would need a copy of the conference program that delineates the speaker, title, and topic, in addition to your summary.
- If you live/work near another university that has seminars or a colloquia series, or where students will present a public defense in a technical field (STEM), you may use one of those as your dissertation talk. Once again, we would need an announcement about the talk and then your summary.
- If you are part of a local society or live in a place where there is a local society that gives public lectures, that would also be suitable. Once again, we would need an announcement about the talk and then your summary.

**Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites**

None. This course may be repeated for a maximum of two times for credit.
Instructor and Contact Information

Instructors:
Jonathan D. Ellis, PhD
Meinel 733
jodelis@optics.arizona.edu

R. Jason Jones, PhD
Meinel 625
rjones@optics.arizona.edu

Assignments and Examinations:
Students will prepare a 1+ page summary for each colloquia and for the dissertation review. The report shall be single spaced, with 1” margins, and Times New Roman font no larger than 11 pt (please see the template on D2L). Each summary will address the aforementioned questions. Each summary will be graded out of 10 points with the 9 best colloquia summaries plus the mandatory dissertation summary counted towards the student’s final grade throughout the semester. A PDF of the summary is to be sent to Kristin Stone at kristinstone@optics.arizona.edu. Reports are due by the start of next colloquium (Thursday at 3:30 PM, Arizona Time). A report template will be provided.

Final Examination or Project
There is no final exam for this course.

Grading Scale and Policies
The grading system for this course will result in grades from A (excellent) through E (failure).

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete and http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal respectively.

Code of Academic Integrity
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See:
http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted under any circumstances. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Also, students using images from the internet without citation is considered an act of plagiarism. If you have any questions regarding this, please see the instructor. The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism. See:
http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.

Accessibility and Accommodations
At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to explore reasonable accommodation.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.
Absence & Class Participation Policy
Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures and laboratory sessions. Students who miss class due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their health-care provider or other relevant, professional third parties. Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in unexcused absences.

The UA’s policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences

Threatening Behavior Policy
The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students.

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Classroom Behavior Policy
To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

Additional Resources for Students
UA Academic policies and procedures are available at http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies
Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance

Confidentiality of Student Records

Subject to Change Statement
Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.