OPTI 696C - Practical Optics

Course Description:

Tucson, Ariz., is the United States' “Optics Valley.” This class visits local businesses and laboratories to allow students to see firsthand how optical technologies are put into practice. Each week the class will be taken to a facility in Tucson for a tour of demonstration of optics in practice.

Grading Policy:

The grade will be determined by participation, weekly reports, and a term paper.

For each weekly class, two brief reports are required:

1. Pre-class report (must be submitted before the class). The students must research the company or topic of the week and provide a brief summary of the company and its products, or of the topic being presented. In addition, students must prepare at least two relevant technical questions.

2. Summary report (due one week after the class). Provide a report that summarizes the visit or seminar. Include personal observations as well as technical facts. For visits, try to answer the following questions:
   1. What are the company’s products and who are the customers?
   2. What are the raw materials for the products and where do they come from?
   3. How does this business depend on advances in technology?
   4. What do you think are the company’s key strengths?
   5. How would you describe the “culture” of the company?
   6. Would you want to work there?

In addition, each student is required to follow up with one company to provide a nice “thank you” from the class.

A term paper is also required for this class. This should be a report that goes into depth about a particular company or topic. The papers should be ~5 pages long. These reports will be posted to the website.

Schedule:

One 3-hour session per week.

Objectives:

The objective of the class is to give students opportunity to see firsthand how optical technologies are put into practice.