OPTI 510R: Photonics  
Graduate Course Syllabus

Semester and Year this Document Covers:

Spring 2024

Course Number and Title:

OPTI 510R: Photonics

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Professor Daniel Soh  
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Teaching Assistant (TA): TA information is announced at the beginning of each semester

Lecture Schedule and Office Hours:

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 9:30am to 10:45am, Rm 305  
Office Hours: To be announced at the beginning of each semester and by appointment

Course Objectives:

This course has been designed to give an introduction to photonics at the graduate level. From the Photonics Dictionary at photonics.com, Photonics is defined as

"The technology of generating and harnessing light and other forms of radiant energy whose quantum unit is the photon. The science includes light emission, transmission, deflection, amplification and detection by optical components and instruments, lasers and other light sources, fiber optics, electro-optical instrumentation, related hardware and electronics, and sophisticated systems. The range of applications of photonics extends from energy generation to detection to communications and information processing."

This course is designed to be device oriented, with many practical examples of photonics components especially those used in the current fiber optics communication networks. The students will learn how the devices are made, designed and operated. The course can be broadly divided into two parts. The first part covers fundamentals such as theories of dispersion,
absorption and birefringence. Thorough understanding of these concepts is required for the rest
of the course. This review will be followed immediately by studies of passive components such
as diffraction gratings, Fabry Perot filters, Bragg mirrors and polarization optics. We then move
to light propagation in planar waveguide geometries, specifically integrated optics devices, with
discussion of several advanced topics such as arrayed waveguide gratings and silicon photonics.
There will be a midterm exam, which will provide students with enough feedback on their
performance in order to make adjustment for the second half of the semester. The second part of
the class covers wave propagation in optical fibers with applications to optical networks,
telecommunications, and optical interconnects. Different types of fiber based devices are
examined such as fused fiber couplers, wavelength division multiplexers (WDM) and fiber
isolators. We will study various types of optical fiber amplifiers, specialty fibers and nonlinear
effects in fibers that impact optical network performance. Many practical aspects of fiber-based
devices will be covered including their design, fabrication and packaging; relevant reliability
standards will also be introduced. Finally, we will examine different kinds of active lightwave
devices including LEDs, lasers and photodetectors.

**Lecture topics:**

1. Properties of Light
2. Wave Optics
3. Interference and Devices
4. Diffraction and Devices
5. Polarization Optics
6. Planar Waveguides
7. Optical Fibers
8. Fiber Dispersion and Compensation Techniques
9. Fiber Fabrication
10. Nonlinear Optical Effects in Fibers
11. Optical Amplifiers
12. Passive Fiber Components
13. Lasers
14. Detectors
15. Introduction to Optical Network

**Learning Outcomes upon completion of this course:**

It is expected that students will be able to:

- Understand the fundamental concepts in Photonics such as interference, diffraction, propagation of wave packets in waveguides and light-matter interaction;
- Know the working principles and performance of photonics devices in current lightwave communication systems including planar waveguides, optical fibers, fiber-based components, lasers, detectors;
• Identify the remaining challenges in the field of Photonics and discuss possible solutions;
• Be prepared to handle and effectively use various photonics components and devices in real laboratory environment.

**Grading Policy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale: A (>=90%), B (>=80%), C (>=70%), D (>=60%), E (<60%)

**Exams:**

We have two exams during the semester. The exams will be based on the lectures, homework assignments, and materials in the textbook. Each exam includes materials in the different parts of the class. The first exam will cover the first half of the course, while the second exam covers the second half of the course.

**Homework Assignments:**

There will be a homework problem set assigned approximately every two weeks. The problem set is due in class. The due date will be listed in the problem set handouts. *Late homework will be accepted up to a week after it was due, and will be graded at 50% off. All materials that are over a week late will receive zero credit.* For distance learning students, you can email scanned/electronics copies of your homework to the TA before the deadline. Recording of class lectures will be available online to distance learning students only.

**Textbook:**

We have one required textbook for the class:


There will be handouts given during class to supplement the materials not in the textbook. Supplements and additional materials are available on the class website ([https://wp.optics.arizona.edu/danielsoh/opti510r/](https://wp.optics.arizona.edu/danielsoh/opti510r/)).

**Course Policies:**
It is **very important** to attend all lectures. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to obtain and review the information you missed. The students are encouraged to ask questions during the lecture. Attendance is not mandatory. If you miss an exam, it may not be made up unless you have a documented medical or family emergency.

If you need to leave the room during lecture, please do so discretely, so that you won’t disturb the professor and the students.

You are encouraged to work with each other as a team. You should not, however, copy each other’s homework.

**Additional Information:**

**Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy**
The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination. In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. For more information, including how to report a concern, please see: https://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

**University Policies**
All university policies related to a syllabus are available at: https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies. By placing this link in your syllabus, you no longer need to have each individual policy included in your syllabus.

**Subject to Change Notice**
Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor of this course.

**Graduate Student Resources**
Please refer to the University of Arizona’s Basic Needs Resources page http://basicneeds.arizona.edu/index.html

**References**
[1] Class notes are taken partially from those prepared by Alan Kost and Seppo Honkanen