

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

OPTI 306 - Radiometry, Sources and Detectors - Fall, 2026. Radiometric concepts, symbols, units and nomenclature. Radiative transport in free space and through optical systems. Effect of material properties on radiative transport. Blackbodies and other radiation sources. Fundamentals of radiation detectors, including principles of operation, noise and figures of merit. Illustrative imaging and nonimaging radiometric systems.

Prerequisites:	Knowledge of basic electronics and geometrical optics
Class time:	MW, 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm in Meinel 408/410
Discussion:	F, 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm in Meinel 305/7 (voluntary); examples, labs, Q&A
Instructor:	John Koshel
Email:	jkoshel@optics.arizona.edu
Zoom	https://arizona.zoom.us/my/koshel – I get an email when you go into the Zoom room if I am not there
Office:	Meinel 403A
Phone:	621-6357
Office Hours:	In person or https://arizona.zoom.us/my/koshel – come anytime or schedule – I get an email when you go into the Zoom room if I am not there
TA:	Kongo Lai
Email:	yongxinlai@arizona.edu
Office:	Meinel 664
Office Hours:	tbd

Course Objectives:

This course covers the generation (sources and radiometry), propagation (radiometry), and measurement (detectors and radiometry) of optical radiation. The theory, units, approximations, instrumentation, and applications will be presented in detail.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand how to measure theoretically and experimentally optical radiation with physical (radiometric) and psychophysical (photometric) terms,
2. Understand the concept of étendue,
3. Know the types of sources, especially blackbody ones,
4. Know the various type of detectors, and
5. Be able to calculate noise and SNR arising from measurements.

Course Material and Logistics:

Lectures:	PDFs will be uploaded to D2L around each lecture time. Note that not all material will be within the PDFs: supplement the lectures with class notes.
Recitation:	Friday 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm in Meinel 305/7. Homework, solutions, exam prep, labs, etc. will be discussed/done. Attendance at the recitation is optional.
Homework:	Assignments and solutions will be uploaded to D2L. Assignments will involve lab kits that will be supplied.
Other:	Other material will be posted on D2L as needed.
Absence:	You are expected to follow the UA Policy, but you are adults so I respect your decisions. I follow UA policies for attendance policies and practices . See the end of this document for more detail.

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade, grading, and UA policies, may be subject to change with notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

V260823.1

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

Course Outline (75-minute lectures)

This listing is tentative, and the order and topics may change as the semester progresses.

Lecture	Date	Day	Topic(s)	Quiz Due	HW Due	Other
1	8/24/26	M	Syllabus, My Field, and What is Radiometry			
2	8/26/26	W	Units and Solid Angle	Q1		
	8/28/26	F	Recitation: assignment help, lab kits?	Q2		
3	8/31/26	M	Projections, Radiance & Luminance			
4	9/2/26	W	Intensity and Exitance	Q3		
	9/4/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #1 help	Q4		
	9/7/26	M	LABOR DAY – NO Class			
5	9/9/26	W	Irradiance and Power		HW1	
	9/11/26	F	Recitation: assignment help	Q5		
6	9/14/26	M	Invariants: Throughput & Étendue			
7	9/16/26	W	Radiant Transfer	Q6		
	9/18/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #2 help	Q7		
8	9/21/26	M	Configuration Factor		HW2	
9	9/23/26	W	Far-Field, Approximation with Far-Field	Q8		
	9/25/26	F	Recitation: assignment help	Q9		
10	9/28/26	M	Cosine Laws, Radiometers: Apertures			
11	9/30/26	W	Radiometers: Lenses, Integrating Sphere	Q10		
	10/2/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #3 help	Q11		
12	10/4/26	M	Transmittance and Reflectance		HW3	
13	10/6/26	W	Scatter	Q12		
	10/9/26	F	Recitation: radiometry review	Q13		
14	10/12/26	M	Absorption, Source Introduction: Luminescence			
15	10/14/26	W	EXAM I: RADIOMETRY			
	10/16/26	F	Recitation: materials examples			
16	10/19/26	M	Source Introduction: Thermal			IA Start
17	10/21/26	W	Blackbody Radiation	Q14		IA End
	10/23/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #4 help	Q15		
18	10/26/26	M	Emissivity		HW4	
19	10/28/26	W	Examples	Q16		
	10/30/26	F	Recitation: assignment help	Q17		
20	11/2/26	M	Examples			
21	11/4/26	W	Laser Safety, Color Intro	Q18		
	11/6/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #5 help	Q19		
22	11/9/26	M	Introduction to Detectors		HW5	
23	11/11/26	W	Introduction to Noise	Q20		
	11/13/26	F	Recitation: assignment help	Q21		
24	11/16/26	M	Bandwidth and Noise Addition			
25	11/18/26	W	Photon Detector Introduction	Q22		
	11/20/26	F	Recitation: Materials & sources review			Exam II out
26	11/23/26	M	Photoemissive Detectors			Exam II Due 11/23/26

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade, grading, and UA policies, may be subject to change with notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

V260823.1

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

Lecture	Date	Day	Topic(s)	Quiz Due	HW Due	Other
27	11/25/26	W	Photoconductive Detectors			
	11/27/26	F	NO RECITATION - THANKSGIVING			
28	11/30/26	M	Photovoltaic Detectors			
29	12/2/26	W	Array Detectors	Q23		
	12/4/26	F	Recitation: HW/Lab #6 help	Q24		
30	12/7/26	M	Thermal Detectors		HW6	
31	12/9/26	W	Class Choice!	Q25		

Note: typically ± 1 lecture for the material covered

See calendar selector for Academic Dates: [Undergraduate](#)

Note that the radiometry material is used throughout the lectures that follow the first section. It is imperative that you understand the first “**eleven**” lectures in order to fully understand the lectures that follow:

- Radiometry through lecture 11
 - o Exam I: in-class exam, expected 14 October 2026
- Sources and Materials through lecture 21
 - o Exam II: take-home exam, expected start 20 November 2026
- Detectors through lecture 31
 - o Project: last few weeks of course, expected due date 18 December 2026

Texts (recommended) – see D2L > Library Tools for easy access to some:

1. I have placed all the notes under D2L > Content > Text
 - a. There are three files – one for each section of the course
 - b. They are the overheads collated from the 2023 notes
 - c. Expect some changes and additions to the overheads for the 2026 version of the course
2. [The Art of Radiometry](#), James Palmer and Barbara Grant, SPIE Press, (2010).
 - a. GET THIS ONE!
 - b. You can get it for free through SPIE since the UA has a site license – look at D2L > Library Tools – should be accessible on and off campus
 - c. Off campus & (b) does not work, login with [VPN to the UA](#) (requires UA NetID+)
 - d. Go to the [SPIE website](#) and download
 - e. NOTE: I do **NOT** use the notation for projections from this book
3. [Radiometry and the Detection of Optical Radiation](#), Robert W. Boyd, Wiley-Interscience (1983).
 - a. GET THIS ONE too!
 - b. Unfortunately there is not an electronic version
 - c. Great book IMO, but the notation is different than #1
 - d. NOTE: I use the notation for projections from this book
4. [Optical Radiation Detectors](#), Eustace Dereniak and Devon G. Crowe, Wiley Series in Pure and Applied Optics (1984).
 - a. Another good book written by individuals with a connection to OpSci

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade, grading, and UA policies, may be subject to change with notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

V260823.1

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

5. [Introduction to Radiometry](#), William L. Wolfe, SPIE Press (1998).
 - a. Go to [SPIE website](#) and download
6. Optical Radiometry and Applications, William L. Wolfe and Douglas Wolfe, SPIE Press (2024).
 - a. Go to [SPIE website](#) and download
7. [Handbook of Optics](#), Volume II, 3rd Ed., ed. Michael Bass, V. N. Mahajan, and Eric Van Stryland, McGraw Hill (2010).
 - a. See chapters on radiometry, illumination, photometry, sources, etc.
8. [Field Guide to Geometric Optics](#), John Greivenkamp, SPIE Press (2003).
 - a. See #1 then visit the [SPIE website](#) and download
9. [Field Guide to Illumination](#), Angelo V. Arecchi, Tahar Messadi, John Koshel, SPIE (2007).
 - a. See #1 then visit the [SPIE website](#) and download
 - b. Illumination is based on the field of radiometry
10. [Illumination Engineering: Design with Nonimaging Optics](#), R. John Koshel, Wiley-IEEE Press (2013).
 - a. You can download this one too

Exams: There will be two exams – Exam I in class and Exam II take home.

Design Project: You will be asked to design a detection system at the end of the course. Included in the project will be the specification of the source, optics, and detector along with an analysis of the expected performance. The details of this project will be provided in late November.

Assignments: After most class lectures a “quiz” will be assigned. These quizzes will include questions from that day’s material, surveys, interpretations of material, case studies, and so forth. Each quiz will be due at the end of the day of the next class/recitation. Note that for some quizzes there “will be no right answer,” so completing them is a necessity to get 100% on those. The lowest three quizzes are dropped. Expect around 25 quizzes.

Homework assignments will be given, and most likely involve computer simulations or physical measurements with apparatus to be supplied. Students are encouraged to work together on homework assignments, but the final write-ups must be independent. Homework is to be turned in by the end of the day it is due. Expect 6 homework assignments.

Grading:	Quizzes	8%	(1 day late -25%, 2 days late -50%, no credit later)
	Homework	12%	(1 day late -25%, 2 days late -50%, no credit later)
	Exam I	20%	(in class, expected 14 October 2026)
	Exam II	25%	(take home, due around 23 November 2026)
	Project	35%	(due end of finals, 18 December 2026)

Grade: The grade will be determined according to the cumulative percentage earned such that 90-100% = A, 80- 89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = E.

AI: You can use it, but a word of caution: using it in lieu of doing the assignments on your own will lead to “challenges” in understanding the material, and thus the use of it has the potential to impact your course grade.

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

For Undergraduates:

- A: Excellent – has demonstrated a more than acceptable understanding of the material; exceptional performance; greatly exceeds expectations
- B: Good – has demonstrated an acceptable understanding of the material; good performance; meets or exceeds expectations
- C: Average – has demonstrated a barely acceptable understanding of the material; adequate performance; meets minimum expectations
- D: Poor – has not demonstrated an acceptable understanding of the material; inadequate performance; does not meet expectations
- E: Failure – little to no demonstrated understanding of the material; exceptionally weak performance

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

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.).

Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during lecture. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM

For a list of emergency procedures for all types of incidents, please visit the website of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT): <https://cirt.arizona.edu/case-emergency/overview>. Check out and download the application SafeCats, <https://safety.arizona.edu/safecats>.

Also watch the video available at:

https://arizona.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA7P1PRD161/common/learningeventdetail/crtfy00000000000003560.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- **UA Academic policies and procedures** are available at
 - <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>
- **Campus Health**
 - <http://www.health.arizona.edu/>
 - Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care services through virtual and in-person care
 - Phone: 520-621-9202

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade, grading, and UA policies, may be subject to change with notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

V260823.1

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

- **Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS)**
 - <https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>
 - CAPS provides mental health care, including short-term counseling services
 - Phone: 520-621-3334
- **The Dean of Students Office's Student Assistance Program**
 - <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/support/student-assistance>
 - Student Assistance helps students manage crises, life traumas, and other barriers that impede success. The staff addresses the needs of students who experience issues related to social adjustment, academic challenges, psychological health, physical health, victimization, and relationship issues, through a variety of interventions, referrals, and follow up services
 - Email: DOS-deanofstudents@arizona.edu
 - Phone: 520-621-7057
- **Survivor Advocacy Program**
 - <https://survivoradvocacy.arizona.edu/>
 - The Survivor Advocacy Program provides confidential support and advocacy services to student survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The Program can also advise students about relevant non-UA resources available within the local community for support
 - Email: survivoradvocacy@arizona.edu
 - Phone: 520-621-5767
- **Disability Resource Center**
 - Accessibility and Accommodations: At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu>) to establish reasonable accommodations.
- **Confidentiality of Student Records**
 - <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa>
- **University-wide Policies link**
 - Links to the following UA policies are provided here,
 - <http://catalog.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies>
 - Absence and Class Participation Policies
 - Threatening Behavior Policy
 - Accessibility and Accommodations Policy
 - Code of Academic Integrity
 - Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
 - Subject to Change Statement

OPTI 306 – Radiometry, Sources, and Detectors

SPECIAL NOTES FOR OPTI 306

- **Classroom attendance and assignment deadlines:**
 - I am doing my best to record OPTI 306 sessions with the College's mobile system.
 - I do not take attendance – I would love to see all of your smiling, happy faces at each lecture, but I understand things happen, etc.
 - I say, if you feel sick, or may have been in contact with someone who is infectious, stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others and do not travel.
 - Notify me BEFOREHAND if you will be missing an assignment deadline or in-class exam.
 - Non-attendance for any reason does not guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments.
 - Please communicate and coordinate any request directly with your instructor.
 - Remember – the lowest three quizzes are dropped.