



OPTI 595A
Current Subjects in Optics
Thursdays 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Meinel 307
Fall 2026

Description of Course

The purpose of OPTI 595A is to introduce students to different aspects of current research in the field of optics. Students are expected to attend the weekly Wyant College of Optical Sciences colloquium and to write a summary (minimum one page) addressing the questions below. A PDF copy of the summary is to be submitted through the OPTI 595A D2L course site (<https://d2l.arizona.edu>) by Monday 11:59 PM (Arizona time) the following week. There will be a colloquium most weeks of the semester and details can be found at <https://optics.arizona.edu/colloquium>. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Writing Assignments: Weekly colloquium summaries should answer the following questions:

- ▶ What is the topic? Why is this person talking about this subject matter? How is it relevant to the field of Optical Sciences & Engineering? Who is the main party of interest for this topic?
- ▶ What did you find interesting about the speaker's presentation? What did you find uninteresting? Was the presentation effective or did the presenter lose the audience early on?
- ▶ Why is this subject important? Are the goals more science-oriented or engineering-oriented?
- ▶ What are the relevant areas of application or impact of the topics presented?
- ▶ 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 Wyant College of Optical Sciences and write a summary on the defense (same questions as above). For those who are unable to attend a dissertation on campus, the following alternatives are acceptable:

- ▶ If you work at a place that has guest speakers and seminars, you may summarize one. In addition to the summary, attach a copy of the speaker's announcement.
- ▶ If you are attending a conference that has technical talks, you can summarize a keynote, plenary, or invited talk at that conference. In addition to the summary, attach a copy of the conference program that delineates the speaker, title, and topic.
- ▶ 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 summarize one of these. In addition to the summary, attach an announcement of the talk.
- ▶ If you are part of a local society or live in a place where there is a local society that gives public lectures, this would also be suitable. In addition to the summary, attach an announcement of the talk.

Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites

None. This course may be repeated for a maximum of two times for credit.

Instructor and Contact Information

Prof. Kyle Seyler
klseyler@arizona.edu
GCRB 027

Assignments and Examinations

Students will prepare a 1+ page summary for each colloquium and for the dissertation review. The report shall be single-spaced with Times New Roman font no larger than 11 pt (please follow the template on D2L). Each summary will address the aforementioned questions. Each summary will be graded out of 10 points per colloquium with the 9 best colloquia summaries plus the mandatory dissertation summary counted towards the student's final grade throughout the semester. A PDF has to be submitted through the OPTI 595A D2L course site (<https://d2l.arizona.edu>) by Monday 11:59 PM (Arizona time) of the week following each colloquium presentation.

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 <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/courses-credit/grading/grading-system>.

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:

<https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-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:

<https://lib.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: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/courses-credit/courses/class-attendance-participation>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <https://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/policies/attendance-policies-and-practices>

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 <https://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 <https://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 <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>
Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/support/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

<https://registrar.arizona.edu/privacy-ferpa/ferpa>

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.