Course Summary

Abstract

This course is designed to be the first course of the optics program core sequence. As such, the course focuses on geometrical optics, optical system design, and an introduction to the principles of physical optics. The principal phenomenon investigated is the interaction of light with optical materials (such as dielectrics and metals), optical elements (such as simple and compound lenses, prisms, and mirrors) and combinations of optical elements (optical systems such as microscopes and telescopes) in the geometrical optics limit, including the effects of absorption, dispersion, polarization, and interference. Emphasis is placed throughout on a balanced combination of fundamental principles and practical system design considerations.

Topics to be covered include: Wave motion, electromagnetic theory, the quantum nature of light (including the photoelectric effect and wave-particle duality), light propagation (including the laws of reflection and refraction), the paraxial approximation central to the geometrical optics model, thin lenses, mirrors, prisms, thick lenses (introduction), optical instrument design and optimization, the human eye as an optical instrument (including the neurobiological basis of low-level vision), the origins and control of optical aberrations, wave superposition (if time permits), polarization phenomena (including a treatment of the generation, analysis, and utilization of polarized light for both scientific and technological applications), linear and circular dichroism, linear and circular birefringence (optical activity), and form birefringence.

Related topics of interest (covered in other courses) include diffraction theory (based on the Kirchhoff scalar diffraction approximation, and including the Fresnel and Fraunhofer regimes), Fourier optics (particularly as applied to optical information processing and computing), and the theory of full and partial coherence.

Potential follow-on courses include Optical Materials, Instruments, and Devices; Physical Optics; Advanced Geometrical Optics; Advanced Physical Optics; Integrated and Fiber Optics; Optical Information Processing (Fourier Optics and Holography); Optical Computing; Nonlinear Optics; and Optical Fiber Communication Systems.

Instructor

Dr. Armand R. Tanguay, Jr.
Professor
Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science,
      Biomedical Engineering, Ophthalmology, Physics, and Astronomy;
Program in Neuroscience and Neuroscience Graduate Program
Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems Center
      (A National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center)
Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics
Center for Photonic Technology
Center for Vision Science and Technology
Center for Neural Engineering
Signal and Image Processing Institute

Office: 520 Seaver Science Center
                 University of Southern California
                 University Park, MC-0483
                 Los Angeles, CA 90089-0483

FEDEX Address: 920 Bloom Walk, Room 502
                 University of Southern California
                 University Park, MC-0483
                 Los Angeles, CA 90089-0483

Laboratories: 511, 513, 515, 519, 525 Seaver Science Center

Telephone: 213-740-4403

E-Mail: atanguay@usc.edu

Office Hours: Immediately after class: Just outside the classroom
                 Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
                 OHE 230 or 520 Seaver Science Center
                 For Fall, 2021, the schedule will be determined in
                 consultation with the class

Graduate Teaching Fellow

Pan Hu
Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Electrical Engineering–Electrophysics

Office: 419 Vivian Hall of Engineering (VHE)
Mailing Address: 502 Seaver Science Center
                     University of Southern California
                     University Park, MC-0483
                     Los Angeles, CA 90089-0483

Telephone: 213-458-3744

E-Mail: panhu@usc.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
                     Other times: By appointment

Senior Teaching Fellow

Dr. Furkan E. Sahin
Former Senior Graduate Research Assistant and Teaching Fellow
Department of Electrical Engineering–Electrophysics
Senior Sensors Engineer
Research and Development Division
Argo AI
Palo Alto, California

Telephone: 213-675-0802

E-Mail: furkansahin@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Requirements

1. Homework Sets

Homework sets will be designed to increase problem solving aptitudes and skills, to illustrate concepts discussed in lecture, and to investigate certain critical phenomena in depth. They will be given out approximately once every two weeks, due in approximately two weeks, with due dates as given in the Course Calendar. If due dates are changed during the semester, the new dates will be discussed in class and posted to the course web site. A separate weekly workshop session will be arranged for review of the homework solutions, and to provide a forum for discussion of questions regarding the course material.

Students are strongly encouraged to make use of additional references and to ask questions of the Instructor and Teaching Fellow, but are required to produce their own independent solutions to the problems. Discussions among students regarding the subject matter covered by the course is highly encouraged. Collaboration among students regarding specific homework problems is not expressly forbidden, but is discouraged. Copying of solutions, though, or reading another student's homework paper while doing one's own homework, is expressly forbidden. The principal value of the homework sets is to develop your own problem solving methods and skills.

Within each homework set, several of the problems will be straightforward, and designed to familiarize students with a particular key concept. Often, these problems will couple together more than one concept, in order to demonstrate the multifaceted nature of the subject matter, and to forge connections among seemingly unrelated topics that do in fact have a common underpinning or conceptual root.

Two unusual features will be noted and stressed in the various homework sets. First, in consideration of the fact that real-life problems in science and engineering are almost never well-specified, some problems will either present data that is unnecessary for the solution of the problem, or will not present enough information for a satisfactory solution. In the former case, you are expected to identify the extraneous piece(s) of information, and explain why it is (or they are) not needed. In the latter case, you are expected to make a reasonable assumption, carefully justify your rationale for the assumption you've made, and then proceed to solve the problem.

Second, the course will include numerous design problems, in which you will be asked to consider a particular design goal, make necessary assumptions, couple concepts together as necessary, develop a coherent design that satisfies the design goals, and in some cases analyze the system performance given your particular design. Examples of such design problems might include a wavelength dispersing prism design, an optical imaging system design, or a polarization component design.

2. Midterm Examination

The midterm examination will be approximately one and one half hours in length, and will be open textbook, open notes, and open homework.

3. Final Examination

The final examination will be approximately two hours in length, and will be open textbook, open notes, and open homework.

Grading Policy

The course grade will be derived from all of the course requirements, and will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

- Homework, 30%

- Midterm Examination, 30%

- Final Examination, 40%

Statement on Academic Integrity

Students who violate University standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the University. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students, and the University, policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity guidelines found in the current *Scampus (http://scampus.usc.edu/)*, as well as throughout this course summary and as presented in class.

Course Textbooks

Required: Hecht, E., *Optics*, Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, (2015), 5th Ed., or

Hecht, E., *Optics*, Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, (2002), 4th Ed.

Recommended: Klein, M. V. and T. E. Furtak, *Optics*, Wiley, New York, (1986), 2nd Ed.

Course Calendar

23 August, 2021 (Monday)	First Day of Fall Semester Classes
24 August, 2021 (Tuesday)	First EE 529 Class
6 September, 2021 (Monday)	Labor Day (University Holiday)
9 September, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 1 Due
10 September, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Register and Add Classes
10 September, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Drop Without a "W"
10 September, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Change Enrollment Option: (Pass/No Pass or Audit)
23 September, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 2 Due
7 October, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 3 Due
8 October, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Drop Without a "W" Appearing on the Transcript
8 October, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Change Enrollment Option: (Pass/No Pass to Letter Grade)
14 October – 15 October, 2021	Fall Recess
21 October, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 4 Due
30 October, 2021 (Saturday)	Midterm Examination (Tentative)
4 November, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 5 Due
12 November, 2021 (Friday)	Last Day to Drop With a "W"
18 November, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 6 Due
24 November – 28 November, 2021	Thanksgiving Recess
2 December, 2021 (Thursday)	Homework Set 7 Due
3 December, 2021 (Friday)	Fall Semester Classes End
4 December – 7 December, 2021	Stop Period (Study Days)
8 – 15 December, 2021	Final Examination Period

12 December, 2021 (Sunday)   Final Examination Review Session

14 December, 2021 (Tuesday)   EE 529 Final Examination,
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m.)

16 December, 2021 – 9 January, 2022   Winter Recess