



UNSW  
SYDNEY

## Course Outline

OPTM7302

# Evidence Based Optometry

Optometry and Vision Science

Faculty of Medicine and Health

Term 2, 2021

## 1. Staff

| Position           | Name                | Email                  | Consultation times and locations |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Course Convenor    | Professor Lisa Keay | l.keay@unsw.edu.au     | By appointment, please email     |
| Research Assistant | Kerrie Ren          | kerrie.ren@unsw.edu.au | By appointment, please email     |

## 2. Course information

| <b>Year of Delivery</b>            | 2021                                   |            |     |  |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|--|
| <b>Course Code</b>                 | OPTM7302                               |            |     |  |
| <b>Course Name</b>                 | Evidence Based Optometry               |            |     |  |
| <b>Academic Unit</b>               | School of Optometry and Vision Science |            |     |  |
| <b>Level of Course</b>             | Postgraduate Core Courses              |            |     |  |
| <b>Units of Credit</b>             | 6UOC                                   |            |     |  |
| <b>Sessions Offered</b>            | T2                                     |            |     |  |
| <b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>            | None                                   |            |     |  |
| <b>Hours Per Week</b>              | 6                                      |            |     |  |
| <b>Number of Weeks</b>             | 10                                     |            |     |  |
| <b>Commencement Date</b>           | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021              |            |     |  |
| <b>Summary of Course Structure</b> |  |            |     |  |
| Component                          | Hours per week                         | Time       | Day | Location                               |
| Online                             | 6                                      | Any        | Any | Distance                               |
| Final Presentation Day             | 4.5                                    | 9am to 5pm | TBA | School of Optometry and Vision Science |

Face to face teaching times and locations: To be allocated

## 2.1 Course summary

This course aims to develop a habit of questioning received wisdom, by approaching ideas, concepts and techniques in optometry and elsewhere with a critical mind, searching for and critiquing any supporting evidence, and being aware of the ethical issues involved in evidence-based optometry. The course is run by distance with a virtual presentation day at the end of semester. Topics discussed in this course include: The nature of evidence, how we find it, how we evaluate it, and how we use it; Ethics of using evidence; The role of statistics in generating and presenting evidence; The use of evidence in optometry.

## 2.2 Course aims

This course aims to equip optometrists with the ability to question received wisdom, particularly on matters related to optometric practice.

## 2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course you (the student) should be able to:

1. Research, inquire and utilise analytical thinking abilities
2. Display capability and motivation for intellectual development
3. Demonstrate ethical, social and professional understanding
4. Develop and present clear scientific communication
5. Teamwork, collaborative and management skills
6. Information literacy

## 2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

| Course Learning Outcome (CLO) | LO Statement  | Related Tasks & Assessment  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| CLO 1                         | 1. Research, inquire and utilise analytical thinking abilities    | Activities and assessment tasks in this course involve literature search and critical reading of the literature. In addition, participants are required to reflect on their use of evidence in their optometric practice and in other aspects of life, in making judgments and decisions. |
| CLO 2                         | 2. Display capability and motivation for intellectual development | Intellectual development is implicit in the assessment tasks of this course, in which the participant will look for and assess evidence and will present and debate his/her opinions of the evidence.   |

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| CLO 3 | 3. Demonstrate ethical, social and professional understanding | This course raises the participant's awareness of the ethical issues and social implications in the use of evidence to support claims and techniques. |
| CLO 4 | 4. Develop and present clear scientific communication         | Assessment tasks involve online discussion and a verbal presentation of the final assignment to the rest of the class at the end of the semester.     |
| CLO 5 | 5. Teamwork, collaborative and management skills              | Participants will be involved in regular online discussion with their colleagues on questions posed by the course tutor.                              |
| CLO 6 | 6. Information literacy                                       | Participants will need to search the literature for types of evidence and will learn to critique published articles presenting evidence.              |

### 3. Strategies and approaches to learning

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#### 3.1 Learning and teaching activities

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|--|---|
| Teaching Strategies                                | Online teaching methods in this course include identifying different types of evidence, critique of the different forms of evidence, and a major assessment task involving formulation of a clinical question, searching and evaluating evidence to answer that question. This process will be discussed online with the group throughout the course. |
| Rationale for learning and teaching in this course | The rationale for use of these methods is that the methods ensure an analytical approach is taken to active involvement in literature search and critique, thinking about evidence and how it can be used or misused in optometry, learning to gather evidence and evaluate its worth.  |

#### 3.2 Expectations of students

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|--------------------------|--|
| Expectations of Students | <p><b>Since this is a blended course with a significant online component, it is essential that you are able to access course materials, communicate with colleagues and lecturers online. In order to participate in this course, you must have good quality internet access for the full course duration.</b></p> <p>Some components of this course are compulsory, and you are expected to attend. Attendance at compulsory course components will be monitored by taking a roll. You may lose marks from your final course mark for non-attendance, unless you submit an application for special consideration and provide appropriate documentation.</p> |
|--------------------------|--|

The compulsory course components, and the justification for their compulsory nature, are as follows:

- The Final Presentation Day in this course must be attended because it acts to reinforce theoretical components of the course, while teaching practical skills that will be essential for you in the rest of the program.

The University uses email as an official form of communication for students. All UNSW students have their own email account. The School of Optometry and Vision Science will also make use of this form of communication.

It is extremely important that you know how to use your Zmail and ensure that you check it regularly. You are advised to link your official UNSW email address to your habitual email address (e.g. Hotmail). You will miss out on vital information from the School and University if you do not check your Zmail.

For more information or if you are having connection or access problems, see:

**IT Service Centre**

[www.it.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/)

Telephone: 02 9385 1333

Email: [itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au)

## 4. Course schedule and structure

Some of this information is available on the [Online Handbook](#)<sup>1</sup> and the [UNSW Timetable](#)<sup>2</sup>.

| Week    | Week starting date            | Lecture                                       | Task/Activity  |
|---------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Week 1  | Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May   | Critical thinking and Evidence-Based Practice | Choose the optometry related topic you would like to focus on for your main assignment                           |
| Week 2  | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June   | Levels and Quality of Evidence                | Find databases to search for evidence  |
| Week 3  | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June  | Posing Clinical Questions                     | Finalise your own clinical question  |
| Week 4  | Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June  | Finding Evidence                              | Search for evidence relevant to your question<br><b>Assignment Due: Critique a peer reviewed journal article</b> |
| Week 5  | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June  | Appraising Evidence                           | Evaluate your evidence   |
| Week 6  | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July   | Reading Week                                  | Reading Week   |
| Week 7  | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> July  | Applying Evidence                             | Practice Presentations   |
| Week 8  | Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July  | Evaluating Evidence                           | Present an argument based on evidence<br><b>Assignment Due: Final Report</b>                                     |
| Week 9  | Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July  | Evaluating Evidence-Based Practice            | Refute an argument based on evidence   |
| Week 10 | Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August | Revision                                      | Evaluation<br><b>Assessment: Final Presentations</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> UNSW Virtual Handbook: <http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au>

<sup>2</sup> UNSW Timetable: <http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/>

## 5. Assessment

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### 5.1 Assessment tasks

| Task                                     | Length     | Weight | Due Date |
|--|------------|--------|----------|
| Online discussion forum                  | 250 words  | 20 %   | Weekly   |
| Critique a peer reviewed journal article | 1500 words | 20%    | Week 4   |
| Final Report                             | 2500 words | 40%    | Week 8   |
| Final Presentation                       | 10 minutes | 20%    | Week 10  |

#### Further information

UNSW grading system: [student.unsw.edu.au/grades](http://student.unsw.edu.au/grades)

UNSW assessment policy: [student.unsw.edu.au/assessment](http://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment)

## 5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

See *Assessment Guidelines* in the *Start Here* intro section on Moodle.

## 5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

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|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Assignment Submissions</b> | <p>Assignments should be submitted via Moodle (electronic submission).</p> <p>This includes completed laboratory reports and logs which should be scanned/photographed and submitted via Moodle.</p> <p>If your assignment requires submission of a pair of glasses/contact lenses, these may be submitted via the Assignment submission box at the Student Enquiry office (North Wing, Rupert Myers Building, Room 3.003), however the accompanying report should be submitted via Moodle.</p> <p>Marked assignments can be collected from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Enquiry office <b>during counter opening hours</b>.<br/>You must show a valid student card to do this.</li></ul> <p>The School Policy on Submission of Assignments (including penalties for late assignments) and the Assignment Attachment Sheet are available from the School office (RMB3.003) and the School website at:<br/><a href="https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate-degrees/important-information-and-policies">https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate-degrees/important-information-and-policies</a></p> |
|-------------------------------|--|

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|---|--|
| <b>Assessment Procedures</b><br><br><b>UNSW Assessment Policy<sup>1</sup></b> | <p><b>SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW INFORMATION, 2021</b></p> <p><b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATION</b></p> <p>On some occasions, sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may prevent you from completing a course requirement, such as attending a formal end of semester examination. In these cases, you may apply for Special Consideration. <b>UNSW operates under a Fit to Sit/ Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/ submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so.</b> The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab &gt; My Student Services &gt; Online Services &gt; Special Consideration and attach student's supporting documentation (such as a medical certificate).</p> <p><b>CHRONIC ISSUES AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS</b></p> <p>If you have chronic issues and pre-existing conditions, we recommend you apply for Educational adjustments for disability</p> |
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support through Disability Services. Register for Equitable Learning Support (formerly Disability Support Services) at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els/register>

<sup>1</sup>[UNSW Assessment Policy](#)

## 5.4. Feedback on assessment

| Task                                       | Feedback                               |               |                   |
|--|--|---------------|-------------------|
|  | WHO                                    | WHEN          | HOW               |
| Online discussion forum                    | Research Assistant                     | Weekly        | Marks             |
| Participation in weekly practical sessions | Research Assistant                     | Weekly        | Attendance online |
| Critique a peer reviewed journal article   | Research Assistant and Course Convenor | 2 weeks later | Marks             |
| Final Report                               | Research Assistant and Course Convenor | Semester end  | Marks             |
| Final Presentation                         | Research Assistant and Course Convenor | Semester end  | Marks             |

## 6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

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**Referencing** is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at [student.unsw.edu.au/referencing](http://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing)

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.<sup>2</sup> At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site [student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism](http://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism), and
- The *ELISE* training site [subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise](http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise)

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: [student.unsw.edu.au/conduct](http://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct).

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<sup>2</sup>International Centre for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

## 7. Readings and resources

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| Prescribed textbooks | <p><b>1. Hoffmann T, Bennett S, Del Mar C. Evidence-Based Practice across the Health Professions. Elsevier, 3rd edition, 2017.</b></p> <p>This textbook presents a contemporary approach to evidence-based practice using practical, profession specific examples and provides an excellent everyday resource in your clinical practice. You can purchase this book through the UNSW bookshop. A copy is held at the UNSW library. It is also available as an eBook through the UNSW library.</p> <p><b>2. Gambrill E. Critical Thinking in Clinical Practice: Improving the Quality of Judgments and Decisions. Wiley, 3rd edition, 2012.</b></p> <p>This textbook can be purchased through the UNSW bookshop. A copy is held at the UNSW library. It is also available as an eBook through the UNSW library.</p> |
| Course Manual        | N/A  |
| Required Readings    | See the Leganto Reading List in the Start Here section on Moodle   |
| Recommended Websites | <p><a href="http://www.eboptometry.com">www.eboptometry.com</a></p> <p>See also the Leganto Reading List in the Start Here section on Moodle</p>   |

## 8. Administrative matters

### Required Equipment, Training and Enabling Skills

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|--|---|
| <b>Equipment Required</b>  | None  |
| <b>Enabling Skills Training Required to Complete this Course</b> | Note that, while this course has no formal prerequisites, it is important that you have the ability to search for information via the UNSW library and other resources. To prepare yourself for this, you should take the ELISE course offered by the library at <a href="http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise">http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise</a> . This is a brief online introduction to study resources at UNSW, including literature search. |

### Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is gathered periodically by various means. Such feedback is considered carefully with a view to acting on it constructively wherever possible. This course outline conveys how feedback has helped to shape and develop this course.

| <b>Mechanisms of Review</b>     | <b>Last Review Date</b> | <b>Comments or Changes Resulting from Reviews</b>  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Major Course Review</b>      | N/A                     | This course has not yet undertaken a major review  |
| <b>myExperience<sup>2</sup></b> |                         | In previous CATEI and myExperience surveys, students have been extremely satisfied with this course. A small number of students expressed a wish for more face to face interactions.<br><br>We have responded by introducing a face to face component in the final week of the course where students will be asked to present and share with others the results of their Critical Appraisal Task Final Assignment. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Work Health and Safety<sup>3</sup></b> | Information on relevant Occupational Health and Safety policies and expectations both at UNSW and if there are any school specific requirements.<br><br>Information on relevant policies and expectations is provided during General Safety Induction training. A copy of the Induction booklet distributed at this training is available from the School of Optometry and Vision Science office (RMB3.003) and the School website at:<br><a href="https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/about/information-and-policies/work-health-and-safety">https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/about/information-and-policies/work-health-and-safety</a>   |
| <b>Equity and Diversity</b>               | Those students who have a disability or are dealing with personal circumstances that affect their study that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the Course Convenor prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity Officer (Disability) in the Equitable Learning Services (formerly Disability Support Services) at 9385 4734 or <a href="https://student.unsw.edu.au/els">https://student.unsw.edu.au/els</a><br><br>Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made. |

| Student Complaint Procedure <sup>4</sup>                             | School Contact   | Faculty Contact  | University Contact   |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Dr Alex Hui<br><a href="mailto:alex.hui@unsw.edu.au">alex.hui@unsw.edu.au</a><br>Tel: 9385 9228  | Professor Gary Velan<br><b>Senior Vice Dean, Education</b><br>Tel: 9385 1278<br>Or<br>A/Prof Adrienne Torda<br><b>Associate Dean, Education &amp; Innovation</b><br>Tel: 9398 2200 | Student Conduct and Integrity Unit<br>Telephone 02 9385 8515,<br>email<br><a href="mailto:studentcomplaints@unsw.edu.au">studentcomplaints@unsw.edu.au</a> |
| <b>University Counselling and Psychological Services<sup>5</sup></b> | Information on Counselling and Psychological Services [CAPS] is available at:<br><a href="https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/">https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/</a><br>Tel: 9385 5418 |  |  |

<sup>2</sup>myExperience process: <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/myexperience>

<sup>3</sup>[UNSW OHS Home page](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Student Complaint Procedure](#)

<sup>5</sup>[University Counselling and Psychological Services](#)

## 9. Additional support for students

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- The *Current Students* Gateway: [student.unsw.edu.au](http://student.unsw.edu.au)
- Academic Skills and Support: [student.unsw.edu.au/skills](http://student.unsw.edu.au/skills)
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: [student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing](http://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing)
- Equitable Learning Services (formerly Disability Support Services): <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: [www.it.unsw.edu.au/students](http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students)