



UNSW  
SYDNEY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION  
SCIENCE

Course Outline

OPTM7302

Evidence Based Optometry

Optometry and Vision Science

Faculty of Science

Term 1, 2020

## 1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations
Course Convenor	Professor Lisa Keay	l.keay@unsw.edu.au	By appointment, please email
Teaching Fellow	Ashleigh Chandra	ashleigh.chandra@student.unsw.edu.au	By appointment, please email

## 2. Course information

<b>Year of Delivery</b>	2020			
<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>	T1			
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	None			
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	6			
<b>Number of Weeks</b>	10			
<b>Commencement Date</b>	17th February 2020			
<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 final face to face 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

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

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>
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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 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Critical thinking and Evidence-Based Practice	Choose the optometry related topic you would like to focus on for your main assignment
Week 2	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Levels and Quality of Evidence	Find databases to search for evidence
Week 3	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Posing Clinical Questions	Finalise your own clinical question
Week 4	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Finding Evidence	Search for evidence relevant to your question <b>Assignment Due: Critique a peer reviewed journal article</b>
Week 5	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Appraising Evidence	Evaluate your evidence
Week 6	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Reading Week	Reading Week
Week 7	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Applying Evidence	Practice Presentations
Week 8	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Evaluating Evidence	Present an argument based on evidence <b>Assignment Due: Final Report</b>
Week 9	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Evaluating Evidence-Based Practice	Refute an argument based on evidence
Week 10	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Revision	Evaluation and <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

<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>. 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: <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>  <b>UNSW Assessment Policy<sup>1</sup></b>	<p><b>SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION INFORMATION, 2020</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>
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### **CHRONIC ISSUES AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS**

If you have chronic issues and pre-existing conditions, we recommend you apply for Educational adjustments for disability support through Disability Services. Register for Equitable Learning Support (formerly Disability Support Services) at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els/register>

Absence from a final examination is a serious matter, normally resulting in a Fail (FL) grade. **If you are medically unfit to attend an examination, YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION TO ADVISE OF THIS** (telephone 02 9385 4639, email: [optometry@unsw.edu.au](mailto:optometry@unsw.edu.au)). You must also submit a *Request for Special Consideration* application as detailed on the UNSW website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>. **It is the responsibility of the student to consult the website or noticeboard to ascertain whether they have supplementary examinations. This information WILL NOT be conveyed in ANY other manner. Interstate, overseas or any other absence cannot be used as an excuse.** This information will be available on the School website at <https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/> (do not confuse the School website with the myUNSW website) and posted on the notice board on Level 3. This information will be available as soon as possible after the School Examination Committee meeting.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR 2020 WILL BE HELD:**

#### **FOR TERM 1:**

- **STAGE 1-4\* COURSES: THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020 – SATURDAY, 23 MAY 2020**
- **THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 1 2020**

#### **FOR TERM 2:**

- **STAGE 1-3 COURSES: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2020 - SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2020**
- **STAGE 4\* COURSES: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2020 AND FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2020**
- **THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 2 2020**

#### **FOR TERM 3:**

- **STAGE 5 COURSES ONLY: DURING THE WEEK OF MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2020 – FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2020**
- **STAGE 1-4\* COURSES: THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2020, FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER AND SATURDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2020**

Supplementary examinations will be held at the scheduled time only. If students who are granted supplementary examinations do not attend, a failure will be recorded for that course. **Students should not make travel arrangements, or any other commitments, before establishing whether or not they have supplementary examinations. Ignorance of these procedures, interstate, overseas or any other absence will not be accepted as an excuse. But usual Special Consideration still applies.** If additional assessment is not scheduled, this does NOT indicate whether or not a student has passed or failed the course. Results will be received in the usual way. Please do not contact the School in this regard. Please note the above applies to OPTM and VISN courses only. Any information on supplementary examinations for servicing courses (e.g. CHEM\*\*\*\*) is the responsibility of the School conducting the course.

\* Stage 4 includes courses in the first year of the MClinOptom program.

**School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, 15 November 2019**

## 5.4. Feedback on assessment

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

<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.  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.  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: <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>  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 <a href="mailto:alex.hui@unsw.edu.au">alex.hui@unsw.edu.au</a> Tel: 9385 9228	Prof Simon Killcross Acting Deputy Dean (Education) <a href="mailto:s.killcross@unsw.edu.au">s.killcross@unsw.edu.au</a> Tel: 9385 3034  Or  Dr Gavin Edwards Associate Dean (Academic Programs) <a href="mailto:g.edwards@unsw.edu.au">g.edwards@unsw.edu.au</a> Tel: 9385 4652	Student Conduct and Integrity Unit  Telephone 02 9385 8515, email <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: <a href="https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/">https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/</a> 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

- 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)