



Course Outline

OPTM7218

Research Project

Optometry and Vision Science

Faculty of Science

Term 1, 2020

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Michele Madigan	m.madigan@unsw.edu.au	By appointment, please email	m.madigan@unsw.edu.au
Lecturer	Research Supervisor	Primary supervisor	By appointment and regular meetings determined by supervisor; please email	

2. Course information

Units of credit: 4 UOC/Term; Term 1, 2 and 3. Full time. 3 Terms total = **12UOC**

Pre-requisite(s): None.

Teaching times and locations: Terms 1, 2 and 3. Flexible time made by arrangement with the primary supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to organise times and meetings with the supervisor. The course convenor can also provide guidance as needed.

2.1 Course summary

2.2 Course aims

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Undertake independent research in Vision Science
2. Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
3. Show strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
4. Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
5. Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding.
6. Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) (3181 – Vision Science

<http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/programs/2018/3181.html> can be found on the UNSW Handbook

Course Learning Outcome (CLO)	LO Statement	Program Learning Outcome (PLO)	Related Tasks & Assessment
CLO 1	Undertake independent research in Vision Science	PLO 3181: 1-7	Research report; presentation; participation in the project
CLO 2	Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form	PLO 3181: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7	Research report; presentation
CLO 3	Show strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review	PLO 3181: 1, 2, 3, 7	Research report; presentation
CLO 4	Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science	PLO 3181: 1-7	Research report; presentation; participation in the project
CLO 5	Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding.	PLO 3181: 1, 3, 4, 7	Research report; participation in the project
CLO 6	Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge	PLO 3181: 1, 3, 4, 7	Research report; presentation; participation in the project

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

Teaching in this course is primarily independent learning with ongoing research supervision. This encourages you to develop the skills required for independent research inquiry.

This course involves no didactic teaching, apart from any teaching that takes place during your meetings with your supervisor(s). Teaching styles will vary between supervisors. If applicable for the research that will be undertaken, students will work with their supervisor to write and submit an ethics application to the relevant ethics committee at UNSW. Supervisors will provide feedback to students in terms of draft applications.

You will be involved in a research project, from beginning to completion. In the process, you will need to conduct literature searches and to critically consider your findings and to question the previous findings of others. While interpreting your research findings and taking into consideration previous findings, you will develop the ability and confidence to question received wisdom, and to form ideas based on your findings and prior work.

- While the project is supervised, it is primarily aimed at developing self-directed learning, with an expectation that the student demonstrates substantial independence. This provides students the opportunity to engage in an ongoing project similar to 'real-world' research experiences.
- The research project can include specialised techniques relevant to the chosen research area. This also includes critical thinking and problem solving (“trouble-shooting”), and evaluation and synthesis of information for scientific research communication in both oral and written forms.
- You will be assessed on your understanding and consistent involvement in the research project, your ability to analyse and interpret your data, and ability to communicate your findings and answer questions. This will include a final written report, and a final research presentation at the end of the course. The final presentation will be held at the School of Optometry and Vision Science and involve academics and other postgraduate students.
- The overall experience will provide guidance and training on research project design, an understanding of the ethical implications of research and procedures required, scientific and academic writing, statistics and data analysis, and effective oral communication *via* a final presentation.

3.2 Expectations of students

<p>Expectations of Students</p>	<p>Students are expected to participate actively in their research project with ongoing and regular interactions with their supervisor(s) during each term. The research project extends over three terms (\$UOC per term). If there are any problems related to attendance at UNSW or other issues please contact the Course Convenor (m.madigan@unsw.edu.au) and/or supervisors asap. SOVS academic advice can be provided as needed (m.madigna@unsw.edu.au).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For more information or if you are having connection or access problems, see:</p> <p>IT Service Centre</p> <p>www.it.unsw.edu.au/</p> <p>Telephone: 02 9385 1333</p> <p>Email: itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au</p>
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4. Course schedule and structure

Some of this information is available on the [Online Handbook¹](#) and the [UNSW Timetable²](#)

.Note: please email, discuss and agree with your supervisor on a schedule for your project by no later than Week 2, Term 1.

Week	Term 1 Notes*
Week 1-2	Discuss projects with course convenor. Email and meet potential supervisors, agree on the research project topic with supervisor†..
Week 3-10	Literature search and review; refine research questions, aims and hypothesis. Project planning.
Week 7-10	Ethics application process including aims and hypotheses, and research plan. Finalise and submit ethics application for consideration by ethics committee or panel. Pilot data collection as appropriate.

Week	Term 2 Notes
Week 1-5	If required, submit ethics application Week 1, Term 2. Ethics application review and response (as required by ethics committee) during Term2. Approval of ethics application and recruitment of subjects (where appropriate).
Week 9-10	Once ethics approved, commence data collection and analysis, synthesis of research findings. Begin to collate research results, discuss results with supervisor. Consider appropriate statistics, graphical presentations and overview with supervisor, and incorporate supervisor feedback.

Week	Terms 3 Notes
Week 1-5	Complete data collection as required, and final data analysis and synthesis of findings. Continue with writing research report incorporating literature review from Term 1.
Week 5-10	<p>Submit draft research report to supervisor and review feedback. Finalise written research report and submit at end of Week 10, Term 3#. Prepare and review material for presentation in the two weeks following end of Term 3#.</p> <p>Note that report writing should take place throughout the course but is the sole focus of the final weeks</p>

† Communications and meetings between you and your supervisor are ongoing and should occur weekly; other academic staff with appropriate expertise may also be involved. The aim of these discussions is to identify main research questions and ideas and raise any concerns at a sufficiently early stage in the course, and for you to obtain feedback on your progress during the project.

Report submission should be the end of Week 10, Term 3, or as discussed and arranged with your supervisor and the course convenor, prior to Week 10, Term 3.

Penalties may be imposed for late submission without a good reason and approval. Oral presentations usually take place in the two weeks following the end of Term 3, or as per discussion with supervisors and the course convenor.

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

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

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks and criteria

Task	% of total mark	Assessment Criteria	Date of		Feedback		
			Release	Submission	WHO	WHEN	HOW
Supervisor's assessment	25	<p>Overall participation mark including regular meetings with supervisor, independent research of literature and effort during the course. The supervisor will provide feedback of participation during and at the end of the course</p> <p>Each student will be assessed by the supervisor on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quality of involvement and level of engagement in the research project b. Communication and clarity of ideas – both oral and written, and during meetings across the terms. c. Demonstrated comprehension of the research topic and questions d. Evidence of preparation for each meeting with the supervisor and e. Willingness to take initiative in meetings and in written communication; frequency of contributions to the project f. Willingness to raise relevant questions and ideas, discuss areas of lack of understanding, consider alternative viewpoints 	At beginning of course	N/A	Supervisor(s)	Regular and at course completion.	Verbal discussion with supervisor
Written report	50	<p>This major assessment will be comprised of a written report submitted at end of the course encompassing a literature review and the student's research including results, discussion and conclusions. The report should be no longer than 10,000 words and can be prepared as a journal submission in this field of research (the format will be discussed with supervisor). Variations are allowed based on how the type of research is usually reported. The report should generally be presented with an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion and references.</p> <p>This report will be marked by two independent assessors in the school or elsewhere (when expertise is</p>	At beginning of course	End of Term3*	Two external assessors with appropriate research experience. ^	At course completion	Average mark, verbal feedback and written comments.

		<p>needed). This assessment is based on the following components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Literature review showing knowledge of the topic area, rationale for the research aims and question b. Comprehensive details of the methods and techniques applied for the research (this will reflect level of understanding of the research methodology) c. Content and organisation of the report, coverage of key issues d. Overall discussion and conclusions, including key issues in the context of existing literature and any limitations of the research conducted e. Correctness and appropriate use of references f. Appropriate use of figures and tables, including complete legends and details; overall organisation, logic and clarity of the report 					
Oral presentation	25	<p>Oral presentations will be assessed by academics attending the presentations. Feedback to the student and supervisor will be provided by the convenor. Academic staff will assess the quality of the scientific work and presentation using the following scheme:</p>	At beginning of course.	During the 2 weeks after Term 3 ends#	Academic or visiting staff in attendance.	At course completion	Verbal discussion with supervisor; see course convenor for average mark.

		<p>Excellent (3) Good (2) Acceptable Not attended (0)</p> <p><u>Presentation Style</u> <i>Super organised effort, interesting, logical presentation, very easy to follow; Well-organised, interesting, easy to follow; Mostly clear and organized; No presentation</i></p> <p><u>Communication</u> <i>Clear, engaging, easy to follow, interesting, excellent engagement with audience; Clear and understandable, good audience engagement; Clear and understandable; Limited audience engagement; No communication</i></p> <p><u>Q&A</u> <i>All questions understood and well answered with no difficulties at all; Most questions understood, attempted to answers all questions; Limited understanding of questions; Not present for questions</i></p> <p><u>Content</u> <i>Detailed, critically reviewed, accurate; Detailed information, relevant, accurate; Most areas covered, some details missing or inaccurate, No content</i></p> <p><u>References</u> <i>Excellent and extensive evidence of resources and references in all areas, Good evidence of resources used in research, Limited evidence of resources used for research; No resources used</i></p>					
Final Mark	100%	Combination of assessments above	N/A	N/A	N/A	At course completion	Exams Section

*Extensions for written reports may be requested **PRIOR** to end of semester, with discussion and agreement from supervisor and course convenor.

^ The final report will be reviewed and marked by external examiners with relevant research experience in the area of study. The final mark will be the average of these assessments.

Oral presentations will usually be held following the end of Term 3; this is usually in the 2 weeks after the Term 3 ends. The final mark will be the average of the marks recorded during this assessment.

Further information: UNSW grading system: student.unsw.edu.au/grades; UNSW assessment policy: student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

5.2 Submission of assessment tasks

<p>Assignment Submissions</p>	<p>Where appropriate, assessments should be submitted via Moodle (electronic submission).</p> <p>Where appropriate marked assignments can be collected from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Enquiry office during counter opening hours. You must show a valid student card to do this. <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: https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate-degrees/important-information-and-policies</p>
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<p>Assessment Procedures</p> <p>UNSW Assessment Policy¹</p>	<p>SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION INFORMATION, 2020</p> <p>SPECIAL CONSIDERATION</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. 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. The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services > Online Services > Special Consideration and attach student's supporting documentation (such as a medical certificate).</p> <p>CHRONIC ISSUES AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS</p> <p>If you have chronic issues and pre-existing conditions, we recommend you apply for Educational adjustments for disability support through Disability Services.</p> <p>Register for Equitable Learning Support (formerly Disability Support Services) at https://student.unsw.edu.au/els/register</p> <p>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). You must also submit a Request for Special Consideration application as detailed on the UNSW website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.</p> <p><u>It is the responsibility of the student to consult the web site 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.</u></p> <p>This information will be available on the School web site 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.</p>
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SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR 2020 WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

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 if they will have supplementary assessments. Ignorance of these procedures, interstate, overseas or any other absence will not be accepted as an excuse. The usual Special Consideration still applies.**

If additional assessment is not scheduled, this does NOT indicate if 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

¹[UNSW Assessment Policy](#)

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Please see Table 5.1 above for full details on feedback for the assessment tasks.

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

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

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.² 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, and
- The *ELISE* training site 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.

²International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

7. Readings and resources

Please consult with research supervisor.

8. Administrative matters

Required Equipment, Training and Enabling Skills

Equipment Required	This is research project-dependent and specific to, and co-ordinated by the primary supervisor in consultation with the student. The Course Convenor may also provide guidance as needed. For ALL laboratory-based projects, once appropriate training is satisfactorily completed, personal protection equipment (PPE) including lab coat and safety glasses will be required, and enclosed shoes are to be worn at all times for laboratory work.
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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.

Mechanisms of Review	Last Review Date	Comments or Changes Resulting from Reviews
Major Course Review		Reviewed as part of change to BVisSci + MClinOptom.
myExperience ²		No students in 2018; not surveyed in 2019. To be surveyed in 2020.

Work Health and Safety³	<p>Information on relevant Occupational Health and Safety policies and expectations both at UNSW and if there are any school specific requirements.</p> <p>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: https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/about/information-and-policies/work-health-and-safety</p>		
Equity and Diversity	<p>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 https://student.unsw.edu.au/els</p> <p>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.</p>		
Student Complaint Procedure⁴	School Contact	Faculty Contact	University Contact
	<p>Dr Alex Hui alex.hui@unsw.edu.au Tel: 9385 9228</p>	<p>A/Prof Alison Beavis Deputy Dean (Education) a.beavis@unsw.edu.au</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Dr Gavin Edwards Associate Dean (Academic Programs) g.edwards@unsw.edu.au Tel: 9385 4652</p>	<p>Student Conduct and Integrity Unit</p> <p>Telephone 02 9385 8515, email studentcomplaints@unsw.edu.au</p>
University Counselling and Psychological Services⁵	<p>Information on Counselling and Psychological Services [CAPS] is available at: https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/ Tel: 9385 5418</p>		

²myExperience process: <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/myexperience>; ³UNSW OHS Home page; ⁴Student Complaint Procedure; ⁵University Counselling and Psychological Services

9. Additional support for students

- The *Current Students* Gateway: student.unsw.edu.au
- Academic Skills and Support: student.unsw.edu.au/skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: 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