



UNSW
SYDNEY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE

OPTM7302

Evidence Based Optometry

SEMESTER 1 2019

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Faculty of Science - Course Outline

1. Information about the Course

NB: Some of this information is available on the [UNSW Handbook](#)¹

Year of Delivery	2019			
Course Code	OPTM7302			
Course Name	Evidence Based Optometry			
Academic Unit	School of Optometry and Vision Science			
Level of Course	Postgraduate Core Course			
Units of Credit	6UOC			
Session(s) Offered	Semester 1			
Assumed Knowledge, Prerequisites or Co-requisites	None			
Hours per Week	This course is delivered online and has no requirements for regular weekly face to face contact			
Number of Weeks	9			
Commencement Date	25 th February 2019			
Summary of Course Structure (for details see 'Course Schedule')				
Component	HPW	Time	Day	Location
Online	6	Any	Any	n/a
Final Presentation Day	4.5	9am to 5pm	Wednesday 24 th April 2019	TBA
TOTAL	6 HPW on average			
Special Details				

2. Staff Involved in the Course

Staff	Role	Name	Contact Details	Consultation Times
Course Convenor		Professor Lisa Jane Keay	l.keay@unsw.edu.au	Please email
Additional Teaching Staff	Teaching Fellow	Ms. Zahra Tajbakhsh	z.tajbakhsh@unsw.edu.au	n/a
	Tutors & Demonstrators			
	Technical & Laboratory Staff			
	Other Support Staff			

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

3. Course Details

Course Description² (Handbook Entry)	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.	
Course Aims³	This course aims to equip optometrists with the ability to question received wisdom, particularly on matters related to optometric practice.	
Student Learning Outcomes⁴	This course is delivered largely online. Learning and teaching strategies have been designed accordingly to ensure that participants discuss and engage with each other during the course. On completion of this course, it is expected that participants will look for the evidence supporting statements, techniques, and claims encountered in optometric practice, and in everyday life. Participants will know where to look for evidence and will be able to assess the evidence.	
Graduate Attributes Developed in this Course⁵		
Science Graduate Attributes⁵	Select the level of FOCUS 0 = NO FOCUS 1 = MINIMAL 2 = MINOR 3 = MAJOR	Activities / Assessment
Research, inquiry and analytical thinking abilities	3	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.
Capability and motivation for intellectual development	3	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.
Ethical, social and professional understanding	3	This course raises the participant's awareness of the ethical issues and social implications in the use of evidence to support claims and techniques.
Communication	2	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

² UNSW Handbook: <http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au>

³ [Learning and Teaching Unit: Course Outlines](#)

⁴ [Learning and Teaching Unit: Learning Outcomes](#)

⁵ Contextualised Science Graduate Attributes: <https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/our-faculty/science-graduate-attributes>

Teamwork, collaborative and management skills	2	Participants will be involved in regular online discussion with their colleagues on questions posed by the course tutor.
Information literacy	3	Participants will need to search the literature for types of evidence and will learn to critique published articles presenting evidence.
Major Topics (Syllabus Outline)	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, both patient care and the conduct of an optometric practice.	
Relationship to Other Courses within the Program	This course is a compulsory component of the Master of Optometry.	

4. Rationale and Strategies Underpinning the Course

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^{6,7}	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.

⁶[Reflecting on your teaching](#)

5. Course Schedule

Some of this information is available on the [Online Handbook](#)⁷ and the [UNSW Timetable](#)⁸.

Dates of start of week	Week	Lectures (day), Topics & Lecturers	Assignment (see also 'Assessment Tasks & Feedback')
25 th February	Week 1	Critical thinking and Evidence-Based Practice	Task: Start considering what optometry-related topic you would like to focus on for your main assignment.
4 th March	Week 2	Levels and Quality of Evidence	
11 th March	Week 3	Posing Clinical Questions	Task: Finalise your own clinical question. Familiarise yourself with the BestBETS system this week as you will be using this system as a basis for part of your assignment.
18 th March	Week 4	Finding Evidence	Search this week for evidence relevant to your question.
25 th March 1 st April 8 th April	Week 5 to 7	Appraising Evidence Applying Evidence	During weeks 5 to 7, evaluate the evidence you have found.
15 th April	Week 8	Evaluating Evidence	
22 nd April	Week 9	Evaluating Evidence-based Practice	Final Presentation Day @ UNSW Wednesday 24th April from 9am to 5pm (room TBA)

*NB: As stated in the UNSW Assessment Policy: 'one or more tasks should be set, submitted, marked and returned to students by the mid-point of a course, or no later than the end of Week 6 of a 12-week session'

⁷ UNSW Virtual Handbook: <http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au>

⁸ UNSW Timetable: <http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/>

6. Assessment Tasks and Feedback¹⁰

Task	Knowledge & abilities assessed	Assessment Criteria	% of total mark	Date of		Feedback		
				Release	Submission	WHO	WHEN	HOW
Online Discussion Forum	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	20%	Starting Week 1	Weekly	Prof Lisa Key & Ms Zahra Tajbakhsh	Semester end	Marks
Critique a Peer-reviewed Journal Article	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	20%	Beginning of Week 3	PART 1: Monday 11 th March PART 2: Monday 25 th March	Prof Lisa Key & Ms Zahra Tajbakhsh	2 weeks later	Mark
Final Report and Presentation	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	See Assessment Guidelines in the Start Here intro section on Moodle	60% (written report 40% + presentation 20%)	Beginning of Week 8	WRITTEN REPORT: Monday 15 th April PRESENTATION DAY: Wednesday 24 th April	Prof Lisa Key & Ms Zahra Tajbakhsh	Semester end	Marks

¹⁰ Approaches to assessment: <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

7. Additional Resources and Support

Text Books	<p>Prescribed textbooks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hoffmann T, Bennett S, Del Mar C. <i>Evidence-Based Practice across the Health Professions</i>. Elsevier, 3rd edition, 2017. <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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gambrill E. <i>Critical Thinking in Clinical Practice: Improving the Quality of Judgments and Decisions</i>. Wiley, 3rd edition, 2012. <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 <i>Start Here</i> section on Moodle
Additional Readings	See the Leganto Reading List in the <i>Start Here</i> section on Moodle
Recommended Internet Sites	<p>www.eboptometry.com</p> <p>See the Leganto Reading List in the <i>Start Here</i> section on Moodle</p>
Societies	
Computer Laboratories or Study Spaces	

8. Required Equipment, Training and Enabling Skills

Equipment Required	None
Enabling Skills Training Required to Complete this Course	<p>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 http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise. This is a brief online introduction to study resources at UNSW, including literature search.</p>

9. 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		This course has not yet undertaken a major review.

myExperience¹¹		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Other		

¹¹ myExperience process: <https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/myexperience>

10. Administration Matters

<p>Expectations of Students</p>	<p>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.</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> <p>The compulsory course components, and the justification for their compulsory nature, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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: IT Service Centre www.it.unsw.edu.au/ Telephone: 02 9385 1333 Email: itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au</p>
<p>Assignment Submissions</p>	<p>Assignments should be submitted via Moodle (electronic submission). 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"> • 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/current/policies-and-procedures</p>

<p>Work Health and Safety¹²</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/whs/work-health-and-safety</p>
<p>Assessment Procedures</p> <p>UNSW Assessment Policy¹³</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION INFORMATION, 2018</p> <p>There are two circumstances whereby a supplementary examination may be granted:</p>

¹² [UNSW OHS Home page](#)

¹³ [UNSW Assessment Policy](#)

COMPETENCY IN DOUBT

Students whose competency level is in doubt after the final examination(s) may be eligible to sit a supplementary examination in the course(s) concerned.

The School of Optometry and Vision Science is updating its policy regarding supplementary examinations in cases where competency is in doubt. Please check the School website for this information.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

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. To do this you must make formal application for Special Consideration for the course/s affected as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and **within three working days of the assessment to which it refers**. 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. Submit the application (including supporting documentation) to UNSW Student Central.

Special Consideration - Pre-Existing Conditions

Many conditions that are the subject of special consideration applications are pre-existing and could be used repeatedly to gain examinations at a later date. These include conditions aggravated or triggered by the stress of the assessment. With the help of your doctor and/or other health care practitioners, steps can be taken ahead of the assessment time to minimise or avoid the consequences of these conditions. When applying for special consideration on the basis of a condition that was already known to be a problem for you and which you have already used as the basis for a special consideration application, the School will require you to provide a certificate that details the preventative measures taken and why they were not successful. This will then be taken into account when considering the application.

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 above.

You are reminded that supplementary examinations are not granted lightly or automatically. Eligibility for supplementary examinations, for both of the above situations, is determined by the School Examination Committee, which meets soon after the formal examination period has ended. You cannot "apply" for a supplementary examination, so please do not contact the School or Course Controllers to request a supplementary examination.

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.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR 2019 WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

FOR SESSION 1:

- **STAGE 1-4* COURSES: DURING THE WEEK OF 29th April-3rd May 2019**
- **THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN SEMESTER 1 2019**

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 for illness 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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>* Stage 4 includes courses in the first year of the MClinoptom program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, 27 September 2017</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 Equity and Diversity Unit (9385 4734 or http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/).</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 Procedure¹⁴	School Contact	Faculty Contact	University Contact
	<p>Prof. Helen Swarbrick h.swarbrick@unsw.edu.au Tel: 9385 4373</p>	<p>A/Prof Janelle Wheat Deputy Dean (Education) Contact details: TBA</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Dr Gavin Edwards Associate Dean (Academic Programs) g.edwards@unsw.edu.au Tel: 9385 4652</p>	<p>Student Integrity Unit (SIU)</p> <p>Telephone 02 9385 8515, email studentcomplaints@unsw.edu.au</p>
University Counselling and Psychological Services¹⁵	<p>Information on Counselling and Psychological Services [CAPS] is available at: https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/ Tel: 9385 5418</p>		

¹⁵ [University Counselling and Psychological Services](https://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au/)

11. UNSW Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or work of another as one's own.

*Examples include:

- direct duplication of the thoughts or work of another, including by copying material, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document (whether published or unpublished), composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, web site, Internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement;
- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original;
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole;
- presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor; and
- claiming credit for a proportion a work contributed to a group assessment item that is greater than that actually contributed.†

For the purposes of this policy, submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may be considered plagiarism.

Knowingly permitting your work to be copied by another student may also be considered to be plagiarism.

Note that an assessment item produced in oral, not written, form, or involving live presentation, may similarly contain plagiarised material.

The inclusion of the thoughts or work of another with attribution appropriate to the academic discipline does *not* amount to plagiarism.

The Learning Centre website is main repository for resources for staff and students on plagiarism and academic honesty. These resources can be located via:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

The Learning Centre also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in:

- correct referencing practices;
- paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing, and time management;
- appropriate use of, and attribution for, a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre.

Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting, and the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

* Based on that proposed to the University of Newcastle by the St James Ethics Centre. Used with kind permission from the University of Newcastle

† Adapted with kind permission from the University of Melbourne