



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

OSE 3052 - Foundations of Photonics

Section: 0001

Optics and Photonics

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026

Class Meeting Days: TR

Class Meeting Time: 09:00AM - 10:15AM

Class Meeting Location: BA1 O119

Modality: P

Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Leland Nordin

Office Location: A235

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Course Description

OSE 3052 OPTIC-OPTICS 3(3,1)Foundations of Photonics: PR: Grades of C (2.0) or better in PHY 2049 and PHY 2049L and MAC 2313. Introduction to wave and photon models of light. Polarization and coherence. Interference and diffraction of light. Interferometers and spectrometers. Fall, Spr

Many of the key growth areas in high-tech sectors are centered around the field of optics, particularly in "Photonics." Examples include, but are not limited to, displays (OLEDs, LCDs, VR/AR), computer vision, data storage, medical and biophotonics (OCT, laser surgery, super resolution imaging), and telecommunication systems, which drives the modern internet. The continued expansion of optics- and photonics-based industries will create a lasting demand for engineers and scientists with training in optics. Other rapidly growing areas of optics, such as bio-photonics, laser machining, laser marking, and infrared imaging, are also addressed in the Photonic Science and Engineering degree program through other courses. This course aims to provide students with a strong foundational understanding of optics, which will be essential for the subsequent courses. We will regularly reference real-world applications throughout the course.

The course introduces the fundamental concepts of light, both as waves (physical optics) and as photons.

We will cover interference of optical waves, along with interferometers and their applications in optical metrology and sensing.

The diffraction of optical waves through apertures will be examined, along with its effects on the resolution of imaging systems and the spreading and focusing of optical beams.

We will study diffraction gratings and grating spectrometers in detail.

The polarization of light and the devices used to control light polarization will also be explored.

Finally, we will introduce light as photons, covering key phenomena such as absorption, emission, and luminescence, and briefly describe photonic devices like light-emitting diodes (LEDs), lasers, and optical detectors.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to solve analysis and design problems for basic optical systems such as the following examples:

- Determine the changes in the Young's double-slit interference pattern that result from bringing the slits closer by some factor.
- Determine the changes in the Michelson interferogram that result from moving one of the mirrors or inserting a thin glass slab in one of the arms.

ABET Outcome:

Graduates have an ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics.

ABET Measure:

A passing student must be able to formulate and solve a complex or multistep problem based on relevant parameters.

Required Course Materials and Resources

Optics

ISBN: 9780137526420

Authors: Eugene Hecht

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 2016

Edition: 5th

Recommended Course Materials

Title: Introduction to Optics

ISBN: 9781108428262

Authors: F.L. Pedrotti, L.S. Pedrotti, L.M Pedrotti

Publisher: Prentice-Hall

Publication Date: 2009

Edition: 3rd

Title: Fundamentals of Photonics

ISBN: 9780471839651

Authors: B. Saleh and M. Teich

Publisher: Wiley

Publication Date: 2007

Edition: 2nd

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

	% of grade
Attendance	5
Homework	10
Quizzes	20
Two mid-term exams (20% each)	40
Final Exam	30

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100-93%
A-	93-90%
B+	90-87%
B	87-83%
B-	83-80%
C+	80-77%
C	77-70%
D	70-60%

Letter Grade	Percentage
F	60-0%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

Only in extenuating circumstances that can be documented.

Missed/Late Assignments

Not graded unless student has made arrangement with the instructor before due date. Earn zero on assignment.

Attendance

Attendance is needed and will be recorded using "UCF Here" App. A grade of 5% of the total will be based on attendance.

Grading Objections

All objections to grades should be made IN WRITING WITHIN ONE WEEK of the work in question. Objections made after this period has elapsed will NOT be considered – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Please note when you used AI to help you with a homework assignment.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF [Student](#)

[Accessibility Services](#) website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

1. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assessment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.
2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes,

the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

4. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](#). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designated on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at [Let's Be Clear](#) and [UCF Cares](#).

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – [Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance](#) & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – [Student Accessibility Services](#) & sas@ucf.edu
- [Access and Community Engagement](#) (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – [Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office](#) & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The [Ombuds Office](#) is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the [ONAC website](#) or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by using the [online form](#). UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the [Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage](#).

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active-duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF Classroom has an Emergency Procedure Guide posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online [here](#).
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video [here](#) to learn more.
 - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
 - **DENY**. When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
 - **DEFEND**. When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the [UCF Alert](#) system. All UCF students, faculty, and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your [contact information is up to date](#).

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Class Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Introduction and Course Overview
2	Wave motion
3	Math of Waves
4	Photons and Light
5	The Superposition of Waves
6	Polarization
7	Interference
8	Interference Continued
9	Diffraction
10	Grating and Spectrometers
11	Grating and Spectrometers
12	Photon Sources and Photodetectors
13	Photon Sources and Photodetectors Continued
14	Coherence Theory
15	Semiconductor Optoelectronics and Final Exam Review
16	

subject to change*