

655-152 Optics: From Rainbows to Digital Imaging

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| Credit Points: | 12.500 |
| Level: | Undergraduate |
| Dates & Locations: | 2008, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, - Taught on campus. |
| Time Commitment: | Contact Hours: 30 one-hour lectures, 6 one-hour tutorials, 6 three-hour practical classes and 12 one-hour multimedia classes. Total Time Commitment: 120 hours |
| Prerequisites: | None |
| Corequisites: | None |
| Recommended Background Knowledge: | None |
| Non Allowed Subjects: | Students may only gain credit for one of 655-152 or 655-101, 655-102 or 655-202 (prior to 2005). |
| Core Participation Requirements: | It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study and reasonable steps will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. This subject requires all students to actively and safely participate in laboratory activities. Students who feel their disability may impact upon their participation are encouraged to discuss this with the subject coordinator and the Disability Liaison Unit. |
| Coordinator: | Dr L Abel |
| Subject Overview: | This subject introduces students to the concept of light as waves of electromagnetic energy radiation; how it is generated and measured, how this energy propagates through space over time, and how optical elements are used to bend and otherwise manipulate light to achieve important real-world applications. Students will have the opportunity to gain appreciation of light transmission through optical fibres, leading to a discourse covering the field of optical communications. The fundamentals of light refraction and optical systems will be introduced and developed in lectures and by interactive web-based multimedia modules. By participating in the laboratory exercises, students will be offered the opportunity to gain practical skills and a solid understanding of optical imaging which forms the basis of modern digital camera systems. Digital image capture and image compression technologies will be covered, as will both old and new display technologies including virtual reality systems using LCD and plasma screens. The subject covers the latest approaches to high resolution imaging problems including the use of confocal microscopy systems for 3D imaging of biological samples. The fast-growing field of adaptive optics is introduced in the context of improving astronomical telescope observation and also as the latest technologies to correct the eye's optical imperfections, including modern contact lens design and laser-surgical therapy approaches. |
| Assessment: | Practical assignments due during semester (20%); two multiple-choice tests held during the semester (7.5% each); a 3-hour written examination in the examination period (65%). |
| Prescribed Texts: | G Smith and D A Atchison, The Eye and Visual Optical Instruments. Cambridge University Press, 1997. M H Freeman and C C Hull, Optics. Butterworth-Heinemann (ed. 11), 2004. D S Falk, D R Brill and D G Stork, Seeing the Light: optics in nature, photography, color, vision, and holography. Harper & Row, New York, 1986. |
| Breadth Options: | This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses: # Bachelor of Arts # Bachelor of Commerce # Bachelor of Environments # Bachelor of Music |

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| | You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects. |
| Fees Information: | Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees |
| Generic Skills: | Apart from learning specific skills as applicable to optical processes, students will be exposed to processes of critical thinking about how scientific problems are approached and solved. Set assignments require students to explore diverse avenues of information collection including internet and library resources, and to synthesise this information in a scientific manner. The practical tasks provide students opportunity to work collaboratively with fellow students, under time constraints that develop and challenge students time and resource management skills. |
| Notes: | Students enrolled in the BSc (both pre-2008 and new degrees), BASc or a combined BSc course will receive science credit for the completion of this subject. |
| Related Course(s): | Bachelor of Optometry |