

## PHYS/ECE 415/615 Elements of Photonics

### COURSE INFO

**Course prefix, number(s), and title:** PHYS/ECE 415/615 Elements of Photonics

**Number of credits:** 3 (*Undergraduate/Graduate*)

**Prereq:** PHYS 252 or graduate standing

**Term and year:** Spring 2025

**Instructor:** Orven Swenson

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**Office hours:** 1:00-1:50 MWF or by arrangement.

### **Bulletin description**

Analysis of optical systems using the matrix formulation, wave propagation in anisotropic media, electro-optic effect and laser modulation, physical origin of optical non-linearities, phase matching, optical second harmonic and parametric generation. Prereq: PHYS 252 or graduate standing.

### **Required Textbook**

B. E. A. Saleh and M. C. Teich, *Fundamentals of Photonics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Inclusive Access eBook link available in Blackboard Course Materials. Hard copy 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. also acceptable.

### **Course objectives**

The goal of this course is to provide the students with the fundamental principles of photonics that complement the topics in the optics and laser courses and to help students develop problem-solving skills applicable to real-world photonics problems. The emphasis of the course will be on the manipulation of optical radiation, i.e., photons. Students will be able to represent the polarization states of optical waves in terms of Jones vectors, Stokes parameters and the Poincare sphere. Next, they will learn the principles of anisotropic media and be able to analyze the propagation of polarized light through anisotropic media. They will investigate the magneto-optic, acousto-optic, electro-optic, and photorefractive effects and be able to analyze their use for the modulation of laser beams. The theories of optical nonlinearities will be studied and applied to optical second and third harmonic and parametric generation of laser beams.

**Additional graduate student objective:** graduate students will demonstrate the ability to research a photonics topic and present it to the class using terminology and concepts learned in the course.

This is a 3 semester-credit-hour course that covers selected chapters of the text *Fundamentals of Photonics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., by Saleh and Teich. The chapters of this text largely stand alone and will not be covered in the order that they appear in the text. The text will be supplemented with notes distributed in class or posted on Blackboard.

## Grading

The final grade will be determined as follows:

PHYS/ECE 415		PHYS/ECE 615	
Exam 1	20%	Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%	Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%	Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%	Final Exam	20%
Homework	20%	Homework	10%
		Project	10%

A total average of 89.5% of the possible points or more ensures an A, 75.5 to 89.4% ensures a B, 59.5 to 75.4% ensures a C, 49.5 to 59.4 ensures a D and below 49.5 will be an F. Depending on the class average, curving may be applied to grades; however, the **lowest** passing final grade (C or higher) in the course will always be 50% or higher.

The exams will include conceptual questions requiring short answers and quantitative problems similar to the assigned homework problems. The final exam will consist of problems requiring the application of principles learned throughout the course. The Final Exam is **mandatory**. Exams must be taken in person.

### Homework Assignments

Problem solving is the primary learning method for this course. Homework will be emphasized and assigned in groups. You will be assigned to a homework group, optimally 4 members, for the semester. One legible problem solution set per group will be turned in on 8 1/2" x 11" paper ONE SIDE ONLY. SHOW all work. The students in the group will present and/or discuss their solutions in class. Each group needs to decide on their group rules such as when you will meet, what the consequences are for members that don't show up/contribute, rotation for preparing the solutions to hand in, rotation for presenting solutions in class, etc. Students will receive one point added to their homework total score for each non-exam classroom attendance.

### Additional Requirement for Graduate Students

Graduate student exams and homework will be graded separately. In addition, graduate students will research a photonics topic of their choice (that is not covered in class) such as optical solitons or four-wave mixing in fibers. They will present their topic to the class during the last week of the course and will provide notes to be posted on BlackBoard for distribution to the other students. Their presentation and notes will be graded using the attached rubric. Satisfactory completion of this task is mandatory.

## Tentative Course Outline

1	6.1A	Polarization of light
2	6.1B	Matrix representation
3	6.2	Reflection and refraction
4	6.2	Reflectance and Transmittance
5	6.3A	Anisotropic media refractive indexes
6	6.3B	Propagation along a principal axis
7	6.3C	Arbitrary direction propagation
8	6.3D	Dispersion relation
9	6.3E	Double refraction
10	6.4	Optical Activity and Faraday Effect
11	6.5	Liquid crystals
12	6.6	Polarization devices
13		Exam 1
14	20.1A	Acoustic wave Bragg diffraction
15	20.1C	Bragg diffraction of beams
16	20.2A,B	Acousto-optic modulators and scanners
17	20.2C,D	Space switches, filters, frequency shifters
18	21.1A	Pockels and Kerr Effects
19	21.1B	Electro-optic modulators and switches
20	21.1C,D	Scanners and directional couplers
21	21.1E	Spatial light modulators
22	21.2	Electro-optics of anisotropic media
23	21.3A	Liquid crystal wave retarders and modulators
24	21.3B	Spatial light modulators
25	22.1	Nonlinear optical media
27		Exam 2
28	22.2C	Three-wave mixing
29	22.2D	Phase matching and tuning curves
30	22.2E	Quasi-phase matching
31	22.3A,B	Third-harmonic generation
32	22.3C,D	Four-wave mixing
33	22.3E	Optical phase conjugation
34	22.4A	Second-order coupled-wave theory
35	22.4B	Optical frequency conversion
36	22.4C	Optical parametric amplification
37	22.5A,B	Third-order coupled-wave theory
38	22.5C	Optical phase conjugation
39	22.6	Anisotropic nonlinear media
40		Exam 3
41	22.7	Dispersive nonlinear media
42		Graduate student presentations
43		Graduate student presentations

Final Exam – Tuesday, May 13, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

### **Attendance Statement**

According to [NDSU Policy 333 \(www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/333.pdf\)](http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/333.pdf), attendance in classes is expected.

Veterans and student service members with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible and are encouraged to provide Activation Orders.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions except for valid excuses such as medical situations, and **attendance will be part of the homework grade**. Active participation in lectures is essential. Students are expected to read the lesson prior to coming to class and to be prepared to discuss it in class. Material may be presented that is not in the text or it may be presented in a different way. Students are responsible for all material presented in class including that missed during excused absences. Attendance at exams is mandatory unless excused for a valid University approved reason.

### **Blackboard**

Course assignments, lesson notes, information, and messages will be posted to Blackboard: <https://blackboard.ndsu.edu>. Your NDSU email address is the official route for information.

### **Graduate School Statement**

The 615-level version of this class is a graduate level course and is subject to the General Policies of the Graduate School:

<https://bulletin.ndsu.edu/graduate/graduate-school-policies/#supervisorycommitteepanofstudytext>.

### **Accreditation Criteria**

Per department requirements, accreditation descriptions may be included as they relate to this course.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act for Students with Special Needs**

Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the [Disability Services Office \(www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices\)](http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices) as soon as possible.

### **Academic Honesty Statement**

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](#) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the [Office of Registration and Records](#). Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at [www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty).

## **Health and Safety Expectations**

- Food and drink are not allowed in the class unless a student has a documented accommodation through Disability Services.
- Do not come to class if you are sick. Please protect your health and the health of others by staying home.
- If you are unable to attend class at the regularly scheduled time due to illness, contact the instructor for alternate arrangements, including recordings of class sessions and assignments as well as accommodations and extensions as needed.
- In this course recording the lectures for anything other than personal use is prohibited.

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	A	B	C	D
Content	<p><b>18 to 20 points</b> Content appropriate for the course. Detailed content reflecting significant research. Well-integrated citations. May be from course textbook.</p>	<p><b>16 to 17 points</b> Content was mostly appropriate for the course. Content reflecting adequate research. Used appropriate citations. May be from course textbook.</p>	<p><b>14 to 15 points</b> Content was somewhat appropriate for the course. A few significant content errors but general ideas are correct. No appropriate citations. May be from course textbook.</p>	<p><b>12 to 13 points</b> Content had little correlation with the course.</p>
Planning & Preparation	<p><b>18 to 20 points</b> Manages time well, presentation lasts 20-40 min. Smooth transitions, ideas flow effectively, topic presented in a logical order. Appropriate topic and level for class. Little or no use of technical jargon, all technical words appropriately defined.</p>	<p><b>16 to 17 points</b> Manages time fairly well, presentation slightly outside of 20-40 min. Fair transitions, ideas flow reasonably effectively, fairly easy to follow. Somewhat appropriate topic and level for class. Some use of technical jargon, all technical words defined.</p>	<p><b>14 to 15 points</b> Presentation well outside of 20-40 min. Choppy transitions, somewhat difficult to follow. Topic too simple or complex for class. Use of technical jargon, technical words not defined.</p>	<p><b>12 to 13 points</b> Hard to understand presentation. Preparation was incomplete or hastily done.</p>
Subject Knowledge	<p><b>18 to 20 points</b> Clear, complete and accurate explanation of physics concepts.</p>	<p><b>16 to 17 points</b> Parts of explanations had gaps in clarity, completeness or accuracy.</p>	<p><b>14 to 15 points</b> Much of explanations had gaps in clarity, completeness or accuracy.</p>	<p><b>12 to 13 points</b> Did not understand topic.</p>
Lesson Notes	<p><b>9 to 10 points</b> Comprehensible to average 415/615 student. Sufficient information for students to follow presentation.</p>	<p><b>8 to 8 points</b> Somewhat disorganized but contains necessary details for students to follow presentation.</p>	<p><b>7 to 7 points</b> Descriptive but too much or too little information is presented.</p>	<p><b>6 to 6 points</b> Notes delivered too late to post on BlackBoard before presentation.</p>
Use of Visual Aids	<p><b>9 to 10 points</b> All visual aids (PowerPoint and blackboard) are relevant to the topic or support the presentation. Easy to read and understand.</p>	<p><b>8 to 8 points</b> Most visual aids (PowerPoint and blackboard) are relevant to the topic or support the presentation. Most are easy to read and understand.</p>	<p><b>7 to 7 points</b> Visual aids (PowerPoint and blackboard) are not very relevant to the topic.</p>	<p><b>6 to 6 points</b> Missing or difficult to read and understand.</p>
Delivery	<p><b>9 to 10 points</b> Clear and engaging. Nearly continual use of direct eye contact with audience, seldom used notes. Easy to hear.</p>	<p><b>8 to 8 points</b> Relied heavily on notes. Some direct eye contact.</p>	<p><b>7 to 7 points</b> Parts of the presentation were difficult to hear or understand. Occasional eye contact with audience.</p>	<p><b>6 to 6 points</b> Entire presentation was difficult to hear or understand. Not much eye contact with the audience.</p>
Answering Questions	<p><b>9 to 10 points</b> Answered all questions clearly and completely.</p>	<p><b>8 to 8 points</b> Answered nearly all questions clearly and completely.</p>	<p><b>7 to 7 points</b> Had trouble answering questions.</p>	<p><b>6 to 6 points</b> Did not answer questions.</p>

Physics/ECE 615 Graduate Student Presentation Rubric