



Course Outline

VISN4016

VISION SCIENCE HONOURS

School of Optometry and Vision Science

Faculty of Medicine & Health

Term 1, 2022

1. Staff

Position	Name & Email	Consultation times and locations
Course Convenor	Blanka Golebiowski b.golebiowski@unsw.edu.au	By appointment, please email.
Research Supervisor	Specific to selected research project	By appointment and regular meetings determined by supervisor; please email.

2. Course information

Units of credit: 16 UOC/Term; Term 1, 2 and 3. Full time. 3 Terms total = 48UOC

Pre-requisite(s): School approval, successful completion of a total of 144 UOC (including WAM 65) and all the requirements of the first three years of the Vision Science program, including core and elective courses, and General Education requirements.

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

2.1 Course summary

Students in this course will undertake research under the supervision of an academic in the School of Optometry and Vision Science. Advanced training will be given in selected areas of vision science, including a supervised program that emphasises the use of specialised techniques relevant to the research area (for example laboratory-based, clinical or public health techniques/applications). A written literature review and research proposal, ethics application and final research thesis are required. In addition, this course includes regular attendance at seminars. During the Honours year, students will be required to present two research seminars in the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

This course is only available to students undertaking Vision Science Honours within the School of Optometry and Vision Science, Faculty of Medicine & Health.

2.2 Course aims

The aim of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to engage in Vision Science research. The research project will allow development of the essential skills for life-long learning, critical thinking and enquiry. Students will undertake supervised research that seeks to develop advanced disciplinary knowledge in Vision Science, the use and application of specialised techniques relevant to their chosen research area, critical thinking, evaluation and synthesis of information for scientific research communication in both oral and written forms.

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) can be found in the UNSW Handbook:

<https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/programs/2022/3181?year=2022>

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

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

Honours (Vision Science) in the School of Optometry and Vision Science is focussed on providing basic training for future leaders in vision science. Students undertake a supervised project in an area of research that aligns with the expertise of staff in the school. To maximise learning effectiveness, several approaches (strategies) are used in Vision Science Honours to build critical thinking and deep learning within the research topic and associated issues. Throughout this course the following approaches are integral to learning:

- 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 a sustained project that is similar to a 'real-world' research experiences, and so develop advanced disciplinary knowledge in Vision Science.
- Honours research can include the use of 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.
- Students are required to produce a written thesis that documents their research work during Honours. To complement this, the course also involves attendance at research seminars with a written reflection documenting the student's insights.
- 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 seminar presentations.

3.2 Expectations of students

Expectations of Students	<p>Honours students are expected to participate actively in their research project with ongoing and regular interactions with their supervisor(s), either on-line or on campus (noting COVID19 restrictions). Honours is a full-time course. If there are any problems related to attendance at UNSW or other issues please contact the Course Convenor (b.golebiowski@unsw.edu.au) and/or supervisors asap. SOVS academic advice can be provided as needed (m.madigan@auns.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>https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/</p> <p>Telephone: 02 9385 1333</p> <p>Contact Us: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/contact-us</p>
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4. Course schedule and structure

Some of this information is available on the [Online Handbook \(http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au\)](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au) and the [UNSW Timetable \(http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/\)](http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/).

Term	Key Honours Activities: Assignment and Submission dates (see also 'Assessment Tasks & Feedback')
Terms 1, 2, 3, 2022	Honours students must attend SOVS Vaegan research seminars (various speakers: internal, external and postgraduate). These are currently held online every second Friday at 12 pm during semester; times and locations will be announced throughout 2022; students will also be included on email list for Vaegan seminars. A reflection assessment on the seminars attended is due at the end of Term 3 2022 (see Assessments below).
Term 1, 2022	Organise weekly meeting schedule with supervisor as appropriate.
	Literature review, refining research proposal and method development as appropriate.
	Complete Human Research Ethics Panel or Full Committee application (where appropriate and as required).
	Literature review and research proposal submitted week 10, Term 1, 2022.
Term 2, 2022	Honours Introduction seminar, week 3, Term 2 2022 (online, time to be announced; if on-campus, will advise).
	Ongoing research project activities, subject recruitment as appropriate, data collection and analysis.
Term 3, 2022	Ongoing research activities, data analysis and review of results and summary of findings, discussion of findings and how this relates to project aims, finalise research thesis writing, tables, and figures, thesis review by supervisor. Final honours report due week 10, Term 3, 2022. Submitted to supervisor (two external reviewers will mark).
	Honours final seminar, in the week following end of Term 3, 2022 (online, time to be announced; if on-campus, will advise).
	Research reflection due week 10, Term 3 2022 (to Course Convenor).

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

Task	Knowledge & abilities assessed	Assessment Criteria	Weight	Due Date
Introduction seminar	Seminar in the School of Optometry and Vision Science with academics and postgraduate students. This is in Week 3, Term 2, 2022. The seminar includes a comprehensive introduction, methods and critical discussion of the proposed experimental design and research aims and hypotheses. There will be a Q&A session after the seminar.	Detailed guidelines for assessing seminars will be provided to students and academics attending the seminars. The final mark will be an average from academics attending the seminar.	15%	Week 3 of Term 2, 2022
Literature review and research proposal	The literature review provides a concise and detailed account of published work that is most relevant to the chosen research topic. Students are required to provide critical analysis and synthesis of the research in the area, with the view of presenting and proposing their own research question.	The literature review / research proposal will be marked by a supervisor-appointed reviewer (SOVS or external; in field of research). The criteria are as follows: * Demonstrated knowledge of topic area * Content and organisation, coverage of key issues * Depth of analysis and discussion	15%	Week 10 of Term 1, 2022
Reflection on seminars attended	A <u>two-page</u> reflection on <u>three seminars</u> attended by the student during these Honours year. This can include comments on seminar content, style, area of research, communication etc.	Assessed on the communication clarity, style and overview of the seminar content and message. Why the student found these seminars of interest?	10%	End of Week 10 of Term 3, 2022
Final seminar	Highlights communication of results with key features as per thesis and interpretation of main outcomes and relevance. Ability to communicate and defend information presented in seminar and respond to questions.	The seminar will be followed by questions from seminar attendees. Final mark based on scores from academics attending seminar (average).	15%	Week following the end of Term 3, 2022

Final written research report/thesis	The report should be prepared in a thesis style. This involves an abstract, introduction, methods, results and critical discussion, with limitations and future directions for the work. The report should indicate an understanding of the research project background, outline of project aims and hypothesis, experimental design and ethics, communication of results, interpretation of results and discussion of significance of results, limitations of the research and future directions in the area of research.	The thesis will be marked by two independent assessors (from SOVS or external). A thesis marking rubric will be provided based on: * depth of discussion * content of report, coverage of key issues * appropriate use of figures and tables * correctness and appropriate use of reference * organisation, clarity and format in appropriate scientific style.	45%	Week 10 of Term 3, 2022 (before final seminar)
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5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Please refer to table in section 5.1 above

Further information

UNSW grading system: student.unsw.edu.au/grades

UNSW assessment policy: [Assessment Policy](#)

UNSW assessment information: student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Assessment Submissions	<p>Where appropriate, assessments should be submitted via Moodle (electronic submission) or by email as agreed, to your supervisor or course convenor.</p> <p>This may include completed laboratory reports and logs which should be scanned/photographed and submitted via Moodle.</p> <p>The School Policy on Submission of Assessments (including penalties for late assessments) 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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Assessment Procedures AUNSW Assessment Policy	<p>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. 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 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>
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5.4. Feedback on assessment

Task	Feedback		
	WHO	WHEN	HOW
Introduction seminar	Primary supervisor	Same Term as seminar	Written comments
Literature review and research proposal	Supervisor(s) and one reviewer with appropriate research experience	1-2 months after due date	Verbal discussion and written comments
Reflection on seminars attended	Honours convenor	Prior to SOVS exam meeting	Written comments
Final seminar	Supervisor and honours convenor (summary of feedback from seminar attendees)	Prior to SOVS exam meeting	Written comments
Final written research report/thesis	Supervisor(s) and two independent assessors with appropriate research experience	Prior to SOVS exam meeting	Written comments

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.¹ 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.

¹International 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

<p>Equipment Required</p>	<p>This is research project-dependent and specific to, and co-ordinated by the research supervisor in consultation with the student. The Honours Convenor may also provide guidance as needed.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Enabling Skills Training Required to Complete this Course</p>	<p>This is research project-dependent and specific to, and co-ordinated by the research supervisor in consultation with the student. The Course Convenor may also provide guidance as needed.</p> <p>Those with limited English skills (relating to writing, oral delivery, grammar, expression) are encouraged to visit the Learning Centre for help as often and as soon as possible. Assistance via UNSW Library and Outreach Librarians is also available.</p> <p>For ALL laboratory-based projects, appropriate training may need to be satisfactorily completed (eg PC2 training) to access and use laboratories.</p>

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 shape and develop this course.

Mechanisms of Review	Last Review Date	Comments or Changes Resulting from Reviews
Major Course Review	Reviewed as part of the change to BVisSci + MClinOptom.	n/a
myExperience https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/myexperience	n/a due to low enrolment numbers.	n/a

Other

Work Health and Safety https://www.safety.unsw.edu.au/staff-student-resources/students	<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). Appointments with Equitable Learning Services are now being offered as video, phone and in person at the Kensington Campus. Contact ELS via Email: els@unsw.edu.au 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 Procedure https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaint	School Contact	Faculty Contact	University Contact
	<p>A/Prof Sieu Khuu, School of Optometry and Vision Science Tel: +61 2 9385 4620 Email: s.khuu@unsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Professor Gary Velan, Senior Vice Dean, Education, Faculty of Medicine and Health Tel: +61 2 9385 1278 Email: g.velan@unsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Student Conduct and Integrity Unit, UNSW Tel: +61 2 9385 8515 Email: studentconduct@unsw.edu.au</p>
Psychology and Wellness	<p>Information on Psychology and Wellness: https://student.unsw.edu.au/counselling Telephone:</p>		

	<p>Students in Australia: 02 9348 0084 (Monday - Friday 9am-5pm) or 1300 787 026 (after hours)</p> <p>International students not in Australia: +61 2 8905 0307 (any time of day or night)</p> <p>Students who visited Psychology and Wellness in 2021: 02 9385 5418 (Monday - Friday 9am-5pm)</p>
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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: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>