COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2026FA

Week	Date of class/seminar	Sections of Shiell & McNab for pre-class reading	Contents of the class readings
1	Mon Sep 14	Course syllabus 4.0 – 4.2	**Introduction to the course and to light.** **4 Waves.** Introduction. The 1-D Wave Equation. Harmonic Waves.
	Weds Sep 16	4.3 – 4.5	A Review of Complex Numbers. Complex Representation of Harmonic Waves, Harmonic Plane Waves.
2	Mon Sep 21	4.6 – 4.9	Other Harmonic Waves. Electromagnetic Waves. Polarization of Light. Doppler Effect.
	Weds Sep 23 (& seminar)	6.0 – 6.2 Review	**6 Superposition of Waves.** Introduction. Superposition and the Superposition Principle. Superposition of Harmonic Waves of the Same Frequency. Review asgmt #1.
3	Mon Sep 28	6.3 – 6.5	Two Extremes: Mutually Incoherent and Mutually Coherent Beams. Standing Waves. The Beat Phenomenon.
	Weds Sep 30	6.6	Phase and Group Velocities
4	Mon Oct 5	14.0 – 14.1	**14 Mathematical Treatment of Polarization.** Introduction. Jones Vectors: Representation of Pure Polarization States.
	Weds Oct 7 (& seminar)	14.2 Review	Jones Matrices: Representation of Polarizing Components Review asgmt #2.
5	Mon Oct 12	**No class**	***Thanksgiving***
	Weds Oct 14	14.3 15.0	Stokes Vectors & Mueller Matrices. **15 Polarization in Practice.** Introduction.
6	Mon Oct 19	15.1 – 15.3	Polarization due to Selective Absorption: Dichroism. Polarization due to Selective Reflection. Polarization due to Selective Scattering.
	Weds Oct 21 (& seminar)	15.4 – 15.5 Review	Introduction to Birefringence and Waveplates. Polarization due to Birefringence. Review asgmt #3.
-	Oct 26–30	***Reading Week***	***Reading Week***
7	Mon Nov 2	**Midterm**	**Midterm**: covers chapters 4, 6, 14, and §15.0 – 15.5
	Weds Nov 4	Review	Review of midterm
8 & 9	Mon Nov 9	13 or 16 & 17	Classes covering content from both **13 Optical fibers and Communications Technology and 16 & 17 Light-Matter Interactions and Lasers**. Focus and work on the topic of your choice.
	Weds Nov 11		
	Mon Nov 16		
	Weds Nov 18		
	Weds Nov 18 (& seminar)	Review	Review asgmt #4 (for topic of your choice).
10	Mon Nov 23	Continue with 13 or 16 & 17	Classes covering content from both Optical fibers and Communications Technology **and** Light-Matter Interactions and Lasers. Focus and work on the topic of your choice.
	Weds Nov 25		
11	Mon Nov 30 & Weds Dec 2	Asgmt 5: presentations	Asgmt 5: presentations on topic of choice: **Optical fibers and Communications Technology or Light-Matter Interactions and Lasers**
12	Mon Dec 7	–	Review for final exam
	Weds Dec 9	–	Review for final exam