

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Oklahoma College of Optometry
Tahlequah, OK 74464
Fall Semester, 2008

INSTRUCTOR:

Thomas O. Salmon, OD, PhD, FAAO, Professor

Offices: OPT BO5

Office Hours: 9-11:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday or by appointment.

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COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: Opt 6122 - Optometry Project I

CLASS DAYS & TIME: Out-of-Class Activity

PREREQUISITES: OS III Student in Good Standing

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: The optometry project extends through three semesters. The project is to be conducted under the supervision of a faculty member and the Student Project Committee. A student or a group of students not to exceed two persons is to select and develop a topic relating to optometry. The topic may be pursued in the laboratory, library, or clinic culminating in a publishable-quality paper and a poster to be submitted to Oklahoma Research Day 2010. Optometry Project I requires a review of the literature, which will be submitted for a letter grade at the end of the semester.

COURSE PURPOSE: This course is taught simultaneously with Opt 6111, Research Methodology. Optometry 6122 requires student investigators to provide a comprehensive, scholarly literature review on a topic germane to optometry. The literature review will provide direction toward the research project required of all students.

EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES: Each student is expected to participate in the composition of a learned literature review that gathers, considers and synthesizes data from an extensive selection of material covering a defined topic. Through this process, students learn more about vision and the science that underlies the practice of optometry.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: Student investigators are expected to use the ophthalmic literature to study a general topic. This includes reading and copying journal articles in the John Vaughn Library, applying for the interlibrary loan of articles not held by NSU, using textbooks and monographs appropriately and using internet resources as taught in Opt 6111.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES: Instruction consists of guidance provided by Dr. Salmon, interaction with the faculty advisor and independent library research work.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES:

General: Optometry 6122 has no formal assigned class times. Once a project subject is

established in Optometry 6111, student investigators must independently establish a schedule allowing them to complete the literature review.

Although students identify the project and do most of the data collection, students and advisors should work as collaborators in designing and concluding each Project phase. **Faculty advisors need adequate time to carefully read and correct manuscripts prior to final submission.** Students and advisors are expected to share authorship should the work done in the project be presented or published.

What Is A Project? The Independent Student Projects exercise has one ultimate evaluation point: a publishable-quality paper, which is ready for submission to a professional journal, at the end of the summer term. An overall topic can be:

- A basic sciences investigation researching some aspect of vision or the visual system;
- A clinical sciences investigation studying either normal vision or ocular pathology;
- Preparation of a publication quality Literature Review of about 6,000 words and a minimum of 50 references per student;
- The composition of an extensive manual, computer program, videotape or podcast describing the application of a set of optometric procedures. In the case of this kind of project, it must also have a research component. For example, a survey to compare how this material compares to educational materials or methods currently in use; or
- Other activities justified by the student/advisor and accepted by Dr. Salmon

The initial literature review (as distinct from a final publication quality literature review) should provide broad coverage of the topic with an in depth consideration of the specific area on which the Project later will focus. It should also study methods that will be critical for the project. For a student working alone, the document should be about 2,000 with 30 references. An initial literature review from a two-student project will have ~50 references and 3,000 words. There roughly are about 300 words per page. The literature review must do more than simply summarize articles. It must **integrate and interpret** the knowledge in a way that is relevant to your research topic. It should discuss the kind of methods you will employ and address key issues you will need to understand to do your project.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES: Assignment due dates are subject to change if circumstances warrant. If a student investigator(s) cannot meet a deadline due to a compelling situation, he/she (they) must contact Dr. Salmon prior to the deadline. Based on information presented in OPT 6111, students will select both a probable topic (or topics) and an advisor by **6:30 PM on September 15, 2008**. These choices will be reviewed by Dr. Salmon to ensure a fit with the project's broad guidelines.

The literature review is due in Dr. Salmon's mailbox by **5:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 8, 2008**. A tentative research plan (one-page outline) is due at the same time. No IRB draft is required this semester. This first statement of your plan of action should be a step by step description of what you think you will do. It will detail how data will be collected and analyzed in order to complete the project. An example was give on the last page of the Methodology 8/25/09 lecture notes. It can also be downloaded from the Projects web site.

Summary of important dates:

- August 25 (Week 2) Choose a partner (if applicable) and a general topical area; for example, contact lenses, or low vision.
- September 1 (Week 3) Choose a faculty advisor
- September 15 (Week 5) Narrow your focus to a more specific research area; for example, dry eye and artificial tears, or blepharoplasty.
- October 13 Submit list of references to advisor (OVS format)
- November Meet with Dr. Salmon to discuss proposed project
- December 8 Literature review due (to advisor and Dr. Salmon)
- December 8 Research outline due. to Dr. Salmon

STUDENT EVALUATION: The final 6122 grade will come from evaluations of the literature review as a composite of the grade assigned by your faculty advisor and Dr. Salmon. The Student Project Committee will meet to consider the grades assigned and any other relevant data and will establish a grade for each literature review. **A failure on the part of a student investigator(s) to meet a deadline may lead to a failing grade.** Grade reductions (i.e. “B” to a “C”) may be assigned for a failure to meet minimum standards or follow the style requirements noted in this document.

ADA COMPLIANCE: A member of the class who feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature should advise Dr. Wickham. He will work with the student and the University's Office of Student Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure a fair opportunity to perform. Please advise Dr. Wickham of any such disability and the desired accommodations at the first class attended.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/DISASTER POLICY: Inclement weather might be a factor only for the submission of documents as required. The basic premises for the inclement weather policy at Northeastern State University are:

1. Classes are expected to be held if at all possible.
2. Each student is responsible for identifying correct information when weather is questionable.
3. Neither students nor faculty are expected to risk life and limb.
4. Faculty members are obligated to hold classes if the University is not closed unless the faculty member is physically unable to get to the site where the class is held.

Policy: During times of inclement weather, decisions concerning day classes will be made by 6:00 A.M. in order for the media to be notified and for students to receive information before they leave home for the site where the class is held. Decisions concerning night classes will be made by 3:00 P.M. Tune in to KRMG 740 AM or call 456-5511.