UNSW Course Outline

VISN5511 The Visual System, Impairments and Implications - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : VISN5511
Year : 2024
Term : Term 1
Teaching Period : T1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Medicine and Health
Academic Unit : School of Optometry and Vision Science
Delivery Mode : Online
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook](#) [Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course provides students with a broad understanding of the visual system, its disorders, and

how vision loss affects visually guided behaviour and daily activities. Its scope includes a review of the visual pathways, visual function and its measurement, as well as diseases and disorders of the visual system that lead to low vision and blindness. The course also includes an introduction to educational strategies and training to improve orientation and mobility in people with vision loss. This course will be delivered online.

Course Aims

This course aims to develop knowledge of the organisation and function of the visual system, its disorders, and how vision loss affects visually guided behaviour and daily activities.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course, along with VISN5512 and VISN5513, offered in Term 1, offers a foundation understanding of the sensory system with particular emphasis on vision and how visual information is used to guide behaviour. Theories and concepts relevant to orientation and mobility will be reviewed.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function
CLO2 : Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss
CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss
CLO4 : Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function	• Precis • Final exam • Mid-term quiz
CLO2 : Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss	• Precis • Final exam • Mid-term quiz
CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss	• Research Essay • Precis • Final exam • Mid-term quiz
CLO4 : Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness	• Research Essay • Precis • Final exam

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle (or Open Access).

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the 'Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources' policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

Other Professional Outcomes

This course provides students with a broad understanding of the visual system, its disorders, and

how vision loss affects visually guided behaviour and daily activities. Its scope includes a review of the visual pathways, visual function and its measurement, as well as diseases and disorders of the visual system that lead to low vision and blindness. The course also includes an introduction to educational strategies and training to improve orientation and mobility in people with vision loss. At the end of the course you will

1) Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function

Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss

Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss

Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Precis Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: 12/02/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 04/03/2024 09:00 AM
Final exam Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: To be advised
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: 12/02/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 19/04/2024 11:00 PM
Mid-term quiz Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: 15/03/2024 09:00 AM Post Date: 29/04/2024 09:00 AM

Assessment Details
Precis

Assessment Overview

Students will be required to submit a precis of their intended research essay topic by Week 3, with feedback provided by the course convenor provided within 2 weeks of submission. This precis will provide a summary of the initial research question and a concise review of research that will critically appraised in the essay.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function

- CLO2 : Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss
- CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss
- CLO4 : Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

See in-class instructions for marking rubric and instructions

<u>Assessment Length</u>

500 words

<u>Submission notes</u>

Please submit online via the Turnitin in link. This tasks does not have a short extension opion.

<u>Assessment information</u>

Please apply for special consideration if you are unable to perform this task by the due date.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If its use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Final exam

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

All course content will be assessed in the final exam. The format will be short answer, multiple choice, and problem-solving questions which will assess the student's understanding and ability to clearly explain topics presented in the course. Feedback will be provided as the final course mark.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function
- CLO2 : Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss
- CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss
- CLO4 : Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

See in-class instructions for further details

Assessment Length

2 hours

Submission notes

Online Assessment - Inspera Exam, answers to be submitted online at the end of the test. This task does not have a short extension option.

Assessment information

Please apply for special consideration if you are unable to perform this task by the due date.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If its use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

This assessment will require students to write a 2000 word research essay on an assigned topic. Topics will be released as the beginning of the term and will focus on key aspects on the course.

The essay will be a review and critical analysis of a collection and synthesis of related research papers to answer the question. Written feedback will be given in two weeks from submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss
- CLO4 : Recognise and articulate the psychosocial implications of low vision and blindness

Detailed Assessment Description

See in-class instructions for marking rubric and instructions

Assessment Length

2000 word essay

Submission notes

Submit online only via the Turnitin link provided in Moodle. This task does not have a short extension option.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Mid-term quiz

Assessment Overview

A multiple choice quiz will assess all course materials up to the mid-term exam (Week 5), including online practical work. Online practical work is designed to support consolidation of knowledge gained from online lectures. Mid-term exam mark will be provided within 2 weeks of assessment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify anatomical structures of the visual system and articulate how they are organised and function
- CLO2 : Analyse and appraise methods used to assess vision and to quantify visual loss
- CLO3 : Evaluate how diseases/disorders that affect the eye and brain cause functional vision loss

Detailed Assessment Description

See in-class instructions for further details

Assessment Length

1 hour

Submission notes

This will be a Moodle online quiz. This task does not have a short extension option.

Assessment information

Please apply for special consideration if you are unable to perform this task by the due date.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If its use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100

- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Topic	Lecture block 1: The visual system 1.1 Introduction to the organisation of the visual system
	Tutorial	Course Introduction, Study Plan and Student Expectations Essay set
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Topic	Block 1 The visual system 1.2: Anatomy and Physiology of the human eye 1.3: Visual processing in the brain – Primary visual cortex 1.4: Visual pathways in the brain
	Tutorial	The fascinating brain: Introducing sensory perception and remarkable brain behaviours.
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Topic	Block 1: The visual system 1.4: Visual pathways in the brain
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Topic	Lecture Block 2: Function of the visual system 2.1 Introduction to visual function 2.2: Contrast sensitivity and visual acuity 2.3: Colour perception, binocular vision and motion
	Tutorial	Week 4 tutorial: Review of visual pathways from the eye to the brain. Brain disection
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Other	Lecture Block 2: Function of the visual system 2.3: Colour perception, binocular vision and motion
	Tutorial	Week 5 tutorial– Review of Material
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Other	Mid-Term Quiz No Tutorials
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Topic	Lecture Block 3: Measuring visual function using optometric tests 3.1: Standard clinical approaches to measuring vision
	Tutorial	Tutorial discussion and small group learning Discussion and small group learning: The functioning visual system, implications for behaviour
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Topic	Lecture block 4: Diseases of the eye and brain 4.1: Overview of common retinal diseases/disorders and their psychosocial impact 4.2: Blinding diseases of the eye 1: Retinal diseases of the eye
	Tutorial	Tutorial discussion and small group learning: Introduction to vision assessment tests and how to interpret their outcomes
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Topic	Lecture block 4: Diseases of the eye and brain 4.3: Blinding diseases of the eye 2: Ageing related visual change
	Tutorial	Tutorial discussion and small group learning Review of eye diseases and their diagnosis Online low vision simulations
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Presentation	Course Review Discussion and small group learning Psychosocial impact of vision loss and blindness: Guest Speaker

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all scheduled clinic, laboratory and tutorial classes. An Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) may be recorded as the final grade for the course if students fail to meet the minimum requirement of 80% attendance for clinical, laboratory and tutorial classes (unless otherwise specified on Moodle). Course attendance expectations are determined by the requirements of the program accrediting body, OCANZ. Where a student is unable to attend, they

are advised to inform the course convenor as soon as possible but no later than 3 days after the scheduled class and, where possible, provide written documentation (e.g. medical certificate) to support their absence. Students may submit a request for special consideration in the case of prolonged or multiple absences. Please note that there are severe consequences for fraudulent medical certificates.

General Schedule Information

The times and locations of classes can be found on [myUNSW](#) under Class Timetable.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This includes lectures, tutorials, readings, and completion of assessments and exam preparation (if relevant).

Swapping practicals

Swapping between practical groups, including practicals that involve cycloplegia or dilation, is not permitted.

Additional attendance requirements for practical classes

All practical classes are compulsory because they act to reinforce theoretical components of the course, while teaching critical practical clinical skills prior to use in the clinic in the final years of the program and are linked to clinical competencies.

Attendance will be monitored by taking the roll. Any absences due to illness must be accounted for by a medical certificate presented to your Course Convenor. Submission to Special Consideration may be required pending the number of absences.

Punctuality is expected. Lateness for practical classes may be recorded as an absence.

Contact the Laboratory Supervisor Dale Larden d.larden@unsw.edu.au if you are running late so your partner can be allocated to alternate work.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

NA

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Additional Costs

Some SOVS courses have additional costs. Please check the course Moodle page for information about additional costs for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Sieu Khuu		Rupert Myers 3.028		Email to arrange meeting time	No	Yes
Lecturer	Revathy Mani				email to arrange appointment time	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both

on campus and online.

The UNSW Student Code of Conduct website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Office provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit.

In addition to the information you are required to review in your ELISE training, UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the Working with Academic Integrity module before submitting your first assessment task.

Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student Referencing page.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure. Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure. Plagiarism is defined in the UNSW Plagiarism Policy and is not tolerated at UNSW.

Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the use of Generative AI in assessments. This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Short extensions and special consideration
Short extension

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

Special consideration

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for Special Consideration through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available here, including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Other assessment tasks

Late submission of assessment tasks

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure, with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

Failure to complete an assessment task

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a "hurdle task") due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au

- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills

- Student support: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support

- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart

- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els

- Guide to studying online: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students

Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the myExperience survey, which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at UNSW Ask Us.

Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact the School Grievance Officer, A/Prof Sean Kennedy (sean.kennedy@unsw.edu.au).