

Course Outline (W2026)

ELE885: Optical Communication Systems

Instructor(s)	Dr. Xavier Fernando [Coordinator] Office: ENG437 Phone: (416) 979-5000 x 556077 Email: fernando@torontomu.ca Office Hours: By Appointment
Calendar Description	This course provides a good understanding of the fundamentals of optical communications; both fiber optics and emerging optical wireless systems will be covered. Some of the topics are: high speed single mode and low speed multimode fibers, step and graded refractive index profiles, different dispersion mechanisms and their effect on high-speed links, advantage of coherent (LASER) light source over incoherent (LED) sources for long haul, high-speed links, photo detectors and their role in bit error rate (BER). Students will do design calculations for point to point and star type fiber optic networks, and they will also be introduced to Synchronous Optical Networks (SONET) and wavelength division multiplexing scenarios. Signal processing performance improvements will also be discussed.
Prerequisites	ELE 635
Antirequisites	None
Corerequisites	None
Compulsory Text(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed Lecture Notes with Problems provided by the instructor available on D2L 2. Power point presentations provided by the instructor available on D2L 3. Library e-reserves available on D2L
Reference Text(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Optical Fiber Communications, GerdKeiser, McGraw-Hill Higher Education 4/e or 3/e 2. Radio over Fiber for Wireless Communications, Xavier Fernando, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2014 3. Vehicular Applications of Visible Light Communications, Xavier Fernando and Hasan Farahneh, IOP Publishing Ltd, Nov. 2020, Online ISBN: 978-0-7503-2284-3; Print ISBN: 978-0-7503-2282-9 4. Suggested readings posted on D2L time to time
Learning Objectives (Indicators)	<p>At the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding mathematical expressions to describe electromagnetic waves. Single and multi mode light wave propagation in cylindrical optical fibres. (1b) 2. Understanding material, wave-guide and modal dispersion mechanisms in cylindrical optical fibres. Effect of dispersion in achievable bit rate. Fibre bandwidth. (1c) 3. Understanding spontaneous and stimulated light wave generation; multi longitudinal mode (MLM) lasers and, laser dynamics via rate equations. (1d) 4. Photon detection. Different noise processes in optical receivers. Optimization of SNR. (2a)

5. Trade-offs between various Fibre-Optic design issues: external vs direct modulation; optimum bias point; LED/Laser line width plus detector gain, bandwidth, transit time and, intrinsic layer width. Trade off between noise and bandwidth in optical receivers. **(3b)**
6. Basic design of digital point to point fibre optic links. **(4b)**
7. Appropriate parameter/device selection in passive bus and star fibre optical network. **(4c)**
8. Design calculations for point to point, passive star and bus networks. **(4a)**

NOTE: Numbers in parentheses refer to the graduate attributes required by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB).

<p>Course Organization</p>	<p>3.0 hours of lecture per week for 13 weeks 1.0 hours of lab per week for 12 weeks 0.0 hours of tutorial per week for 12 weeks</p>														
<p>Teaching Assistants</p>	<p>Samiul Islam Syed Ammad Ali Shah</p>														
<p>Course Evaluation</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Theory</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Midterm Exam</td> <td>30 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-Class Quizzes (in-class)</td> <td>20 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Exam</td> <td>40 %</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Laboratory</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Online Quizzes</td> <td>10 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL:</td> <td>100 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: In order for a student to pass a course, a minimum overall course mark of 50% must be obtained. In addition, for courses that have both "Theory and Laboratory" components, the student must pass the Laboratory and Theory portions separately by achieving a minimum of 50% in the combined Laboratory components and 50% in the combined Theory components. Please refer to the "Course Evaluation" section above for details on the Theory and Laboratory components (if applicable).</p>	Theory		Midterm Exam	30 %	In-Class Quizzes (in-class)	20 %	Final Exam	40 %	Laboratory		Online Quizzes	10 %	TOTAL:	100 %
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<p>Examinations</p>	<p>Midterm exam typically held in Week 7 and, it will cover materials studied during weeks 1-6. It will be a closed book examination for two hours with multiple-choice and written type questions.</p> <p>Final exam will be held during the posted exam period. It will primarily focus materials studied during weeks 7-13. It will be a closed book examination for three hours with multiple-choice and written type questions.</p> <p>Two in-class quizzes will be conducted, typically one before the midterm exam and one after the midterm exam.</p> <p>Online quizzes will be available weekly on D2L. Cumulatively these will carry 10% marks.</p>														
<p>Other Evaluation Information</p>	<p>During tutorial hours, the TAs will solve selected problem from the Problem Sets. Students will have the chance to clarify doubts with the Teaching Assistants.</p>														
<p>Teaching Methods</p>	<p>Teaching will be done via in-person lectures during the calendar hours.</p>														

Other Information	<p>Attending the lectures and solving problem sets and on-line quizzes on your own are essential to gain a good understanding of the course material.</p> <p>Use of Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT, Grammarly, Perplexity, DeepL Translator) to develop or assist with any ideas or material submitted for coursework is expressly prohibited in this course. Use of Generative AI in this manner will be considered a breach of Policy 60.</p> <p>See Academic Integrity and AI Use at TMU at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HVre0-YflnPA5WPAYR6Ecjv_OwqDP0TMcOePCQQYIaU/preview?tab=t.0#heading=h.qcfhdt6b496b</p>
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Course Content

Week	Hours	Chapters / Section	Topic, description
1	3		Introduction to Optical Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wave Basics (Chapters 1 & 2) - Overview of Optical Fiber Communications (Sec 1.1-1.3) - Basic Optical Laws and Definitions (Sec 2.2)
2-3	4.5		Optical Fibers (Chapter 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optical fiber modes and configurations (Sec 2.3) - Mode Theory (Sec. 2.41 2.4.2) - Single Mode Fibers (Sec 2.5) - Graded Index Fibers (Sec 2.6)
3-4	4.5		Signal Degradation in Optical Fibers (Chapter 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attenuation (Sec 3.1) - Wave guide Distortion (Sec 3.2) - Design Optimization (Sec 3.5)
5-6	6		Optical Sources (Chapter 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LED (Sec 4.2) - Laser Diode (Sec 4.3) - Linearity (Sec 4.4) - Noise (Sec 4.5)
7-8	6		Photo detectors and Receivers (Chapters 6 and 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of Physical Principles (Sec 6.1) - Noise (Sec 6.2) - Response Time (Sec 6.3) - Comparisons (Sec 6.7) - Digital Receivers (Sec 7.1 7.2)

9-10	6		Digital Transmission Systems (Chapter 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point to Point Links (Sec 8.1) - Power Budget (Sec 8.1.2) - Rise Time Limit (Sec 8.1.3) - Line Coding (Sec 8.2)
10-11	4.5		Optical Networks and WDM (Chapters 10 and 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDM Concepts and Components - Star and Bus Optical Networks - SONET - BLSR and UPSR - Broadcast and Select WDM Networks
11-12	4.5		Radio over Fiber (Chapter 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiber wireless systems - Losses and gains - Power budget calculations - Optical electrical and cumulative SNRs

Laboratory(L)/Tutorials(T)/Activity(A) Schedule

Week	L/T/A	Description
2	Problem Set I	Basic optics and waves
3	Problem Set II	Fiber Basics
4	Problem Set III	Fiber and Dispersion
5	Problem Set IV	Optical Sources: LEDs
6	Problem Set V	Optical Sources: LASERS

7	Problem Set VI	Optical Receivers
8	Problem Set VII	Point-to-point-links
9	Problem Set VIII-a	Star Networks
10	Problem Set VIII-b	Bus Networks
11	Problem Set IV	Fiber Wireless Systems

University Policies & Important Information

Students are reminded that they are required to adhere to all relevant university policies found in their online course shell in D2L and/or on [the Senate website](#)

Refer to the [Departmental FAQ page](#) for further information on common questions.

Important Resources Available at Toronto Metropolitan University

- [The University Libraries](#) provide research [workshops](#) and individual consultation appointments. There is a drop-in Research Help desk on the second floor of the library, and students can use the [Library's virtual research help service](#) to speak with a librarian, or [book an appointment](#) to meet in person or online.
- [Student Life and Learning Support](#) offers group-based and individual help with writing, math, study skills, and transition support, as well as [resources and checklists to support students as online learners](#).
- You can submit an [Academic Consideration Request](#) when an extenuating circumstance has occurred that has significantly impacted your ability to fulfill an academic requirement. You may always visit the [Senate website](#) and select the blue radio button on the top right hand side entitled: Academic Consideration Request (ACR) to submit this request.

For Extenuating Circumstances, [Policy 167: Academic Consideration](#) allows for a once per semester ACR request without supporting documentation if the absence is less than 3 days in duration and is not for a final exam/final assessment. Absences more than 3 days in duration and those that involve a final exam/final assessment, always require documentation. Students must notify their faculty/contract lecturer once a request for academic consideration is submitted. See Senate [Policy 167: Academic Consideration](#).

Longer absences are not addressed through Policy 167 and should be discussed with your Chair/Director/Program to be advised on next steps.

- [FAQs Academic Considerations and Appeals](#)
- Information on Copyright for [Faculty/Contract Lecturers](#) and [students](#).

Lab Safety (if applicable)

Students are to strictly adhere and follow:

- a. The Lab Safety information/guidelines posted in the respective labs,
- b. provided in their respective lab handouts, and
- c. instructions provided by the Teaching Assistants/Course instructors/Technical Staff.

During the lab sessions, to avoid tripping hazards, the area around the lab stations should not be surrounded by bags, backpacks etc, students should place their bags, backpacks etc against the walls of the labs and/or away from their lab stations in such a way that it avoids tripping hazards.

Accessibility

- Similar to an [accessibility statement](#), use this section to describe your commitment to making this course accessible to students with disabilities. Improving the accessibility of your course helps minimize the need for accommodation.
- Outline any technologies used in this course and any known accessibility features or barriers (if applicable).
- Describe how a student should contact you if they discover an accessibility barrier with any course materials or technologies.

Academic Accommodation Support

Academic Accommodation Support (AAS) is the university's disability services office. AAS works directly with incoming and returning students looking for help with their academic accommodations. AAS works with any student who requires academic accommodation regardless of program or course load.

- Learn more about [Academic Accommodation Support](#).
- Learn [how to register with AAS](#).
- Learn about [Policy 159: Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Accommodations (for students with disabilities) and Academic Consideration (for students faced with extenuating circumstances that can include short-term health issues) are governed by two different university policies. Learn more about [Academic Accommodations versus Academic Consideration and how to access each](#).

Wellbeing Support

At Toronto Metropolitan University, we recognize that things can come up throughout the term that may interfere with a student's ability to succeed in their coursework. These circumstances are outside of one's control and can have a serious impact on physical and mental well-being. Seeking help can be a challenge, especially in those times of crisis.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call 911 and go to the nearest hospital emergency room. You can also access these outside resources at anytime:

- **Distress Line:** 24/7 line for if you are in crisis, feeling suicidal or in need of emotional support (phone: 416-408-4357)
- **Good2Talk:** 24/7-hour line for postsecondary students (phone: 1-866-925-5454)
- **Keep.meSAFE:** 24/7 access to confidential support through counsellors via [My SSP app](#) or 1-844-451-9700

If non-crisis support is needed, you can access these campus resources:

- **Centre for Student Development and Counselling:** 416-979-5195 or email csdc@torontomu.ca
- **Consent Comes First - Office of Sexual Violence Support and Education:** 416-919-5000 ext 3596 or email osvse@torontomu.ca
- **Medical Centre:** call (416) 979-5070 to book an appointment

We encourage all Toronto Metropolitan University community members to access available resources to ensure support is reachable. You can find more resources available through the [Toronto Metropolitan University Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) website.