Overview
This is a first course on electromagnetic waves, optics, and photonics, intended for sophomores who have already completed ENGN0510. Topics to be covered include basic wave phenomena with an emphasis on electromagnetic waves, geometric optics, the interaction of light with matter, and interference and diffraction effects. We will also cover a selected number of more advanced topics, which may include waveguides and transmission lines, Fourier optics, and nonlinear optics. As a prerequisite, the curriculum assumes a basic level of understanding of electricity and magnetism, up to and including Maxwell’s equations. Familiarity with multi-variable calculus will be useful, as will familiarity with complex arithmetic.

Over 14 weeks, students will spend 3 hours per week in lecture (42 hours total). Weekly homework assignments should require 9 hours per week (126 hours total). In addition, there are two midterm exams and the end-of-semester final exam for which a total of 12 hours of preparation is assumed.

Course web page: The course web page can be found by selecting the “Teaching” link on my group home page. This site will be frequently updated with course materials and announcements, so check often. In particular, powerpoint lectures delivered in class will be converted to pdf files and posted. This means that you DO NOT have to write down everything you see in lecture, because you’ll be able to download it later. However, it would be extremely unwise to use the online course materials as a substitute for attending lecture – in the past, there has been a strong correlation between regular lecture attendance and success on the exams.

Please note that ENGN1560 is a paper-free course. All course materials will be made available only on the web page:
http://www.brown.edu/research/labs/mittleman/engn-1560-spring-2017
No hard copies will be distributed in class. It is your responsibility to check the web page for assignments, handouts, announcements, etc.

Course Schedule
The tentative course schedule can be found on the course web page. This will be updated as the semester progresses, if necessary.

Textbook
The required text is Optics, 4th edition, by Eugene Hecht. If you decide to buy a used copy, be sure to get the 4th edition and not an earlier one.

Problem Sets
Problem sets will be posted on the web page approximately weekly, and will usually be due IN CLASS on Fridays. You are permitted to work with fellow students in solving the problems, as
long as your collaboration is compatible with the Brown University Academic Code (e.g.,
copying someone else's work is not allowed).

Laboratory module
This course will include one (new) laboratory module. This will involve building an operational
laser, from parts. It will be scheduled during the week of April 3-7, instead of lectures. More
information will be available as that week approaches.

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Office hours will be held in my office, which is B&H228. You are strongly encouraged to take
advantage of office hours, especially if you are having difficulty completing the problem sets in a
reasonable amount of time. Office hours are on Thursdays since the problem sets are generally
due on Fridays. Additional office hours can be scheduled by appointment; usually the best way
to do this is to send me an email.

Please take advantage of office hours – I am happy to work with you if you are having
difficulties. If there is something you don’t understand, ask for help!

Exams
There will be two midterms and a comprehensive final exam. More details on the nature of the
exams and the scheduling will be forthcoming – check the web site. If you anticipate that you
might miss an exam, let me know as soon as possible so that an alternative can be
arranged for you. If you have a foreseeable conflict, you MUST let me know in advance of the
exam date. Unforeseeable conflicts will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Grades
Your final grade will be determined according to the following weights:

- Homework: 25%
- Two midterm exams: 25% each
- Final exam: 25%

This class will NOT be graded on a curve; however, grade cutoffs may be adjusted slightly.

Grading policy
Regrade policy: If you think a regrade is required on any assignment, you should discuss this
with me as soon as possible, but not more than one week after the assignment or exam
was returned to you. Except in the event of obvious clerical errors, no regrades will be
considered beyond this deadline. It is your responsibility to examine your graded papers
carefully to check for any grading errors.

Late assignments: If you have a legitimate and foreseeable excuse for handing in an
assignment late, you will receive permission to do so with no penalty. These situations will be
handled on a case-by-case basis. Note that a legitimate excuse such as a medical situation
requires a confirming note from your physician. If you do not fall into the aforementioned
category, then you can still receive 50% credit on late problem sets, as long as I receive them no
later than two weeks after the original due date. Assignments turned in later than that will
receive 25% credit, up to the last day of class. The idea here is that, even if you cannot hand in an assignment on time, you still get some credit if you do it before the end of the semester. This is the Better Late Than Never clause. Obviously, using the homework solutions to complete a late assignment would defeat the whole purpose of this clause, so it is a violation of the Brown University Academic Code to do so.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, copying other students work, solutions manuals, or internet sources, or misrepresenting work as your own by not properly citing or referencing sources. More information on the Brown Academic Code can be found here: http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/academic_code.php