

Name _____

PHYS319 Optics
Pre-lab Birefringence 2
(Spring 2026)

1. What the difference between a half-wave plate and a quarter half-wave plate?
2. What is a retarder? Name two different types of retarders and what they do.
3. What is the meaning of optical activity and how does it affect polarized light?
4. How can linearly polarized light be resolved into two orthogonal components inside a birefringent material?
5. What is photoelasticity?