

CS6451 Human-Center Computing (HCC) Syllabus

Section A | 3 Credits | M/W: 9:30 am to 10:45 am | Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Shaowen Bardzell

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General Course Information

Description

This class introduces students to theoretical and methodological readings in the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) that inform the School of Interactive Computing's approach to Human-Centered Computing (HCC), covering cognitive, social, and cultural theories, assessment and evaluation, and ethical issues. It is designed and required for incoming, first-semester HCC PhD students in the College of Computing.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Engage with major intellectual research themes and interaction paradigms in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Understand and analyze key theories, cases, and exemplars in HCI
- Examine key ways knowledge is produced in HCI
- Read scholarly literature competently, independently, and reflectively, with special attention devoted to identifying thesis, framing, arguments, source of evidence, analytical/research methodology, and discursive context in each text
- Develop intellectual positions and communicate them to others in a professional manner
- Gain competence in professional skills (e.g., peer-reviewing, presentation, networking, job interviews, etc.)

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

N/A

Required Course Materials

All the required readings can be accessed at the HCC PhD Core Reading List website:

<https://www.ic.gatech.edu/phd-hcc-core-reading-list>

Course Requirements and Grading

No late assignments will be accepted.

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Student-led discussions: 20%
- Weekly reading précis: 20%
- Research elevator pitch: 10%
- Research proposal: 10%
- Mini project: 20%

A>90; B>80; C>70; D>60

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Class attendance is required. This is a small class, so please email the instructor in advance if you are unable to attend for any reason. Legitimate reasons for missing class include illness, a job interview, or attending a conference. Excuses that will not be accepted include, for example, picking someone up at the airport, having something due in another class, or having furniture delivered.

Class starts at **9:30 am**, and students are expected to be on time. Coming in late disrupts the class. Students will get one warning and will thereafter receive partial attendance/participation credit.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's [Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Generative AI Policy

Students are *not allowed* to use GenAI for any class deliverables. You can use a grammar check if you would like, but nothing else. Reading primary sources takes time. This is a safe space where you can practice reading and writing.

Core IMPACTS

N/A

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Accommodations for Non-Native Speakers of English

As someone who has studied other languages for much of my adult life and is a non-native speaker of English myself, I appreciate the difficulty and courage it takes to study abroad in a language other than one's own. I also recognize that this graduate seminar is a language-intensive course in many ways. I am committed to doing everything I reasonably can to ensure that non-native speakers are not placed at an unfair disadvantage. When grading written work, we will focus on what students are trying to say, rather than pay attention to grammatical and other surface-level errors, being as generous as possible. Other reasonable accommodations will happily be made upon request.

Other Resources

If you are struggling to manage your life, there are resources available to support you. The [Georgia Tech Counseling Center](#) is staffed by psychologists and mental health counselors. They offer brief, confidential counseling and crisis intervention services to students, as well as after-hours on-call counselors to speak with and consult with students in crisis. They also offer a series of workshops designed to help manage stress.

The [Stamps Health Services](#) offers psychiatric services to students and spouses. Call 404-894-2585 or visit the second floor of Student Health Services.

The [Office of the Dean of Students](#) welcomes referrals if you are concerned about a colleague.