

[CS 8999] Syllabus

[Doctoral Thesis]

[Summer 2026]

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ling Liu

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General Course Information

Description

Students are expected to conduct their doctoral dissertation research and prepare their doctoral dissertation throughout the entire semester and meet with their dissertation advisor regularly.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion at the end of this semester, students are expected to produce a published research article and gain in-depth understanding of the dissertation research topics that are chosen to investigate at the beginning of the semester.

Required Course Materials

There is no suitable textbook for this course.

The course materials include the required reading list (a collection of papers).

Grading Policy:

Students will be evaluated by their regular meeting reports and final report on the investigation results as well as the quality and the depth of the insights gained.

Grades will be computed using the following weighting scales:

- **Regular meeting reports: 50%**
- **Final-report: 40%**
- **Participation: 10%**

Regular meeting Report (50%) and Final Report(40%)

Regular meeting reports and Final report are graded using the scale of 100 points. The goal of these two reports is to consolidate the knowledge and learning experience of students about the special problems identified in the special problem registration time and revised throughout the first period prior to midterm report. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor regularly to present each regular meeting report.

Participation (10%)

In this course, students will earn participation grade in several ways. The goal is to encourage each student to interact with your peers and the instructor. The participation is graded using the scale of 100 points and is worth 10% of your final grade.

Letter Grade Policy.

The total grade is the sum in percentages of midterm report, final report and Participations a student has earned, and the total percentage in the scale of 100 points will be converted to the following letter grade:

- [85-100] corresponds to letter grade A
- [70~85) corresponds to letter grade B
- [65~70) corresponds to letter grade C
- [60~65) corresponds to letter grade D
- [0~ 60) corresponds to letter grade F

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

For CS 8999, there is no mandatory attendance recording each week throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

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.

Core IMPACTS

[Core IMPACTS](#) is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. If you are teaching a course that counts towards Core IMPACTS, you should include a syllabus statement about the Core area and associated [career competencies](#). [This resource](#) developed by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Online Education at Georgia State University includes template syllabus statements for each of the Core IMPACTS areas that you may adapt for your course.

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 in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement (Acceptable student conduct Statement)

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.

Campus Resources for Students

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources:

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;
- [Student Resources](#) such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and
- [Professional Development](#) such as *the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events*

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))