

# Special Problems Course Syllabus (BIOL 8901 - Stolfi)

## Course Information

**Course Prefix and Number:** BIOL 8901 – Fall 2026

**Instructor:** Alberto Stolfi

## Course Description

This course provides academic credit for independent studies under the direction of a faculty member. The scope and direction of the studies are determined by the student (or small group of students) in consultation with the course instructor.

## Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Gain experience in performing independent, basic research on topics that are not taught in a formalized course setting.

## Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Resources for research are determined in consultation with the instructor.

## Grading Policy

Student makes progress on research project of choice, resulting in novel data: A  
Student learns the necessary techniques required to begin producing data: B  
Student acquires the necessary background knowledge to understand the research topic: C  
Student makes good-faith effort in all of the above but has yet to substantially develop their research preparation, skills and approach: D  
Student does not make an effort to learn about or conduct research: F

## Attendance Policy

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. The frequency and format of student–faculty contact are determined by mutual agreement and are consistent with the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled.

## Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

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 the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Honor Code](#), especially [Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code](#).

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All Doctoral and Master's Thesis students are required to take the [Responsible Conduct of Research training](#), and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing 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.

Allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined by the [Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific or Other Scholarly Misconduct](#).

## Core IMPACTS

Not applicable

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) 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

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](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Additional information for research-related work is given in [The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#). 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.