

MUSI 4705/4699/7100/8903: Syllabus

Music Technology Research Lab — Music Informatics Group

Fall 2026

Course Details

class time	seminar M 14:00, group meeting W 14:00, individual meetings tbd
location	seminar WV175, lab Couch 202, office SoA 266A
credits	3 credit hours
modality	in person

Instructor Information

name	Alexander Lerch
email	alexander.lerch@gatech.edu
location	SoA 266A (bridge between architecture buildings)
office hours	by online appointment (bookwithme online appointment)

1 General Information

1.1 Course Description

Guided research and creative work in music technology. Investigation of novel technological and artistic concepts with scientific methodologies. Experimental design and development of new algorithms, software, and musical artifacts.

1.2 Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites. Prior coursework in signals and systems and machine learning is expected. Programming experience and familiarity with Python will be helpful.

1.3 Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the class, the students will demonstrate

- knowledge of state of the art algorithms and technology in music technology,
- the ability to design and implement algorithms, and to design and implement systems for the analysis, synthesis, and/or processing of audio and music,
- the ability to design and execute a systematic and meaningful evaluation methodology including appropriate selection and handling of data, evaluation procedure, and identification of suitable metrics,
- the ability to plan for all stages of a research project (i.e., formulating the research question, doing a literature survey, finding/implementing a baseline/comparison, designing the experiment, evaluating and analyzing the results systematically), and
- the ability to present the results in a structured and clear, understandable way in scientific writing and a poster presentation.

1.4 Group Communication

Please regularly check your Teams and email. You will receive invitation links to the groups below — notify me if you don't or if you have any questions or concerns.

MS Teams Channels

music-informatics-alumni@googlegroups.com external: announcements & accomplishments for all alumni

2 Course Requirements & Grading

The overall grade consists of:

attendance	15%
project work	50%
paper	15%
final (poster) presentation	20%

2.1 Description of Graded Components

Individual undergraduate students and capstone students will be graded identically but will receive a grade 10% higher. Group projects will be graded identically to graduate students, but will have to submit an additional questionnaire about their and their team mates' contribution.

- **attendance:**
participation in Monday seminars and in group meetings as well as in scheduled individual meetings (all mandatory)
- **project work:**
your individual or group project for this semester. Grades will assigned according to quality, significance, and impact of your contributions to the project, the ability to complete assigned tasks in a timely manner, the ability to communicate and collaborate with others, and the innovations and ideas that shape the direction of our research.
- **paper** (due date: before the final instructional class days):
conference style paper describing the project in a scientific style in a quality that would allow conference submission. Grades will be assigned according to structure, clarity, references, quality of information, and form. In addition, second year students will also provide a MS project proposal in a similar format at the begin of their 3rd semester.
- **presentation:**
In addition to presenting your work in the lab meeting, there will be a research showcase at the end of the semester (assigned slot during final exam week) where you will present your work to other students and visitors. Second year students will also present their MS project or thesis in the Monday seminars. The presentation grade will be assigned according to the organization, completeness, verbal and non-verbal presentation skills, and the quality of the visual materials (structure, easy to read, visualizations, etc.).

2.2 Grading and Grading Policies

All graded components will be graded in points. The final grade for the course will be determined by dividing the total points earned by the number of points possible for each of the categories listed above.

These numbers will be converted into a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	100–90%
B	89–80%
C	79–70%
D	69–60%
F	59% and below

Grades may be assigned per group or individually as announced (e.g., projects are in some cases per group, quizzes are usually per individual).

According to policy, grades at Georgia Tech are interpreted as follows:

- A** Excellent (4 quality points per credit hour)
- B** Good (3 quality points per credit hour)
- C** Satisfactory (2 quality points per credit hour)
- D** Passing (1 quality point per credit hour)
- F** Failure (0 quality points per credit hour)

3 Course Materials

3.1 Software

Assignments are due in the language announced (commonly python). The project work can be done in any programming language approved after discussion with the instructor. The most common choices are Python and Matlab. Matlab is accessible at www.matlab.gatech.edu.

With respect to tools, **prepare to use github** (github.gatech.edu or github.com or some other version control system). I recommend using the github issues in connection with milestones to keep track of your project progress. Other recommended tools are

- Zotero for bibliography management, and
- \LaTeX for scientific typesetting.

4 Course Policies

4.1 Course Participation

Personal **attendance is mandatory** in the Monday seminar series (2pm) and the group meeting (TBA) unless announced otherwise. The individual meetings are by default scheduled in person but can be adapted to other formats if agreed on.

4.2 Course Management

The class will be managed through Canvas and Teams.

5 Course Schedule

The class schedule is based on weekly meetings: the weekly Monday seminar, weekly group meetings, as well as weekly individual meetings. Regular individual meetings (20 minutes) will be scheduled at the begin of the semester, time-slots will be available for additional (sign-up) appointments.

Relevant information is available in our github repo: <https://github.gatech.edu/alerch3/MUSI7100-Projects>
Other information can be found in this repository as well, such as

- lab meeting schedule:
<https://github.gatech.edu/alerch3/MUSI7100-Projects/blob/master/lab-meeting.md>
- general info:
<https://github.gatech.edu/alerch3/MUSI7100-Projects/blob/master/readme.md>
- GPU overview:
<https://github.gatech.edu/alerch3/MUSI7100-Projects/blob/master/lab-machines.md>
- templates for slides and posters

6 Course Expectations & Guidelines

6.1 Extensions, Late Assignments, Missed Exams

All assignments, papers, and other artifacts are due **ON THE DUE DATE**. The due date will be announced per assignment/task on t-square. A penalty of **TEN POINTS PER 24 HOURS** will be applied to all late assignments/tasks and late project papers. Documented illnesses and family emergencies are excepted. Quizzes and exams cannot be made up unless you have a valid, documented excuse.

6.2 Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In case the classroom or meeting location is inaccessible, the course will switch to meeting and communicating remotely on MS Teams.

6.3 Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

The use of mobile devices in the classroom is prohibited unless explicitly allowed by the instructor.

6.4 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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit or .

- <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or
- <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

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.

The use of generative machine learning systems for code and text generation is strongly discouraged as it negates some of the learning outcomes of this class. Note that the student takes full responsibility for factual errors and potential plagiarism in generated text and code.

6.5 Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404)894-2563 or

- <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>

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.

6.6 Use of Generative AI

It is perfectly understandable if you decide to take advantage of modern tools, particularly generative AI, to increase your productivity. However, it is important to consider the following guiding principles:

- *you cannot claim work as yours that you haven't created* (it's plagiarism),
- *you are fully responsible* for any mistakes, particularly false or faulty references, incorrect citations, unvalidated statements, etc.,
- *your learning experience is more important than fast delivery*. If you really believe an LLM does things better than you could, whether it is coding or writing or brainstorming or anything else, consider (i) whether it is worth acquiring this skill, and (ii) why you are enrolled in an institution of higher education if all you do is prompting.

You may use AI tools to:

- proofread your original written work to, e.g., improve language, phrasing, grammar, spelling, or
- generate code snippets, documentation, test cases, profile, etc.,

as long as you scrutinize and validate the output.

You may **not** use AI to:

- write your final paper or significant section of it,
- create 'personal' insights or observations, or
- generate longer source code sequences.

Unless you state that you used an AI tool, your work will be evaluated under the assumption that no such tools were used, and if it turns out that AI tools were nevertheless used in any non-trivial form, it will be considered plagiarism.

When you used AI tools, clearly indicate the following:

- *which* tools were used,
- *for what* they were used, and
- *how* they were used (prompts) and how the generated output informed or shaped your final submission.

6.7 Digital Etiquette

As a significant part of our communication may remain virtual, I appreciate your cooperation. Please make extensive use of chat and mailing lists to stay in touch with each other. **Check both Teams and email at least once every business day.** Try to actively reach out to me and to your colleagues to help or ask for help. In any remote meetings,

- please leave your camera on and, in case of more than 4 participants, your microphone off by default,
- feel free to either just speak up or use the chat or raised hands to interrupt.

6.8 Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See

- <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22>

for an articulation of 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.

6.9 Diversity

The School of Music community of faculty, staff, and students aspires to create and nurture an environment that is supportive of all backgrounds where different views and ideas are respected and encouraged. In all our pursuits, we commit to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion with regard to race, national origin, language, age, sexual orientation, gender, religion, and ability. Moreover, we will encourage intellectual inquiry and respectful exchange that cements our dedication to these principles.

6.10 Academic Grievance Policy

Students should first discuss any concerns with the relevant faculty member; if it is not possible to come to resolution with the faculty member, students may then report the matter to the appropriate administrator (Chair or Associate Chair or Director of Studies) of the department of instruction or report it here:

- <http://www.contact.gatech.edu/academicgrievance>

The GT grievance policy can be found at

- <https://provost.gatech.edu/reporting-units/conflict-resolution-ombuds/academic-grievance-policy>.

7 Campus Resources for Students

7.1 Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources

Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email tutoring@gatech.edu, or visit Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

7.2 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.

7.3 Student Wellbeing

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.