

**School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026**

**ARCH 8903: Special Problems (1-3 credits)**

# ARCH 8903 Syllabus

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## Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Danielle S. Willkens, PhD

## General Course Information

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### Course Description

Graduate research conducted under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

### Course Learning Outcomes

Your learning outcomes here:

- Discipline-specific communication using correct grammar, spelling, syntax, and sentence structure
- Demonstrates an ability to interpret, evaluate, and create visual representations of ideas
- Shows ability to approach problems from different perspectives
- Uses information in ways that demonstrate intellectual resourcefulness
- Effectively connects multiple ideas/approaches
- Demonstrates an ability to work independently and identify when guidance is needed
- Accepts constructive criticism and uses feedback effectively
- Uses time well to ensure work gets accomplished

### Required Course Materials

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

### Grading Policy

Letter grade based on active engagement with research meetings and final product, decided upon in the course agreement. Faculty research mentors and student(s) will discuss and agree on expectations before beginning an undergraduate research course. Expectations will include the student's weekly time commitment; methods and frequency of communication; how research will be recorded, stored, and shared; and when and how students will reflect on their successes and challenges.

### Grading Scale

A 90–100% thorough and intrepid research; inventive project delivery

- B 80–89% successful research and project communication
- C 70–79% satisfactory research and project communication; meeting requirements
- D 60–69% unsatisfactory research and project communication; lacking requirements
- F Below 60% incomplete or missing

### **Attendance Policy**

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. Students conduct independent research under the supervision of a thesis advisor. The frequency and format of student– advisor contact are determined by mutual agreement.

### **Academic 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 for this thesis course.

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**

Note applicable.

### **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.

### **Expectations of Advisors and Advisees**

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 Expectations of Advisors and Advisees articulates 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.