

School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026

ARCH 4921 /8921: Special problems (3 credits)

ARCH 4921 / 8921 Syllabus

Special problems, 3 Credits

Summer Semester 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Athanassios Economou

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Office Location: Hinman 202

Office Hours: Available upon request

General Course Information

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. The course is offered to students that participate in the Architectonics Study Abroad Program on Art and Architecture in Greece and Italy in addition to the three courses of the program, ARCH 3007/6007, ARCH 3008/6008 and ARCH 3009/6009.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will be able to:

- Gain experience in performing independent research in situ (archaeological sites, museums, and significant buildings)
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret, evaluate, and create visual representations of ideas
- Show ability to approach problems from different perspectives
- Demonstrate ability to formulate questions and hypotheses within the discipline

- Use a reflective and iterative approach to problem solving

Required Course Materials

An anthology of readings is required, and it varies according to the subject matter of the proposed research. Readings may range from general background basic references to highly specific technical articles, and they should provide a foundation for the development of the proposed research. The list of appropriate readings for the proposed research is worked out during the initial discussions between the student and the faculty in charge and is attached in the formal request for approval for independent study in the program.

Grading Policy

Specified on the course form along with deliverables. The format of the final deliverables may vary and include scholarly papers, CAD models, mixed media studies, 3d fabrication models, and so forth. The required paper or project is completed after returning to Tech, prior to the end of the summer term. Guidelines for requests for approval for an independent study, and samples of good papers are given prior to the trip abroad.

Course Schedule

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.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Active Participation at all meetings is mandatory and crucial to the successful completion of the class.

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 will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity. For expectations of student and instructor conduct, consult [Code of Conduct \(rules/19\)](#) and [Student-Faculty Expectations \(rules/22\)](#).

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 Agreement](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.

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.

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.

Optional Policies, Expectations, and Resources

Limited Generative AI Use Permitted

Use of Generative AI (insert appropriate AI tool(s) here) is permitted but only within instructor-approved boundaries. Its use must be transparent and documented in a required AI Usage Statement with each submission, including: tool used and date of access, the input (prompt) provided, a copy of the output, and a description of how you used or edited the AI-generated content. Failure to disclose its use may be considered a violation of Georgia Tech's academic integrity policies.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Late submissions of assignments without previous arrangements will be graded down one-half letter grade for each calendar day they are overdue. Note that exceptions are made at

Georgia Tech for approved Institute activities and religious observances

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In the event of inclement weather class will pivot to digital instruction and will follow conventions and regulations pertaining to Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations as specified at: <https://s1.policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/digital-learning-days-modified-campus-operations>.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Full attention is required during the meetings with the faculty. Students using devices for anything other than active note taking may be counted as absent for the class period.

CIOS — Course Evaluations

At the end of the term, students are asked to complete the online course evaluation for all courses at Georgia Tech (<https://gatech.smartevals.com>). CIOS scores and comments have different degrees of visibility based on roles:

Reporting access by role	CIOS Scaled Results	CIOS Scaled Comments	TA's Scaled Results	TA's Comments
Instructor	Their Own	Their Own	All within their own course	All within their own course
TA Supervisor	N/A	N/A	All within their own course	All within their own course
Teaching Assistant	None	None	Their Own	Their Own
School Administration	All within their own unit	None	All within their own unit	All within their own unit
Students	All – Summary only	None	None	None

More information: [CIOS Student FAQ](#)

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources

A list of resources for undergraduate students' academic success and advising can be found at [Success at Tech](#). Academic Support (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free tutoring: success.gatech.edu/tutoring.

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 by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

Library & Archives

Contact your Architecture Library subject specialist, Catherine Mancini (catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu), for research help and information on available resources. Contact your Architecture Archives liaison, Jody Thompson (jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu), for assistance with archival research and collections.

Georgia Tech Library: <https://library.gatech.edu/>

Georgia Tech Archives: <http://library.gatech.edu/archives>

Approved Communication Platforms

[Georgia Tech Approved Communication Platforms](#)

Georgia Tech Values Statement

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our [strategic plan](#), we want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

SoA & College of Design Policies

Archiving

At the end of the semester, all students are required to submit physical and/or digital examples of their work to their instructors or administration for archiving no later than one week after the end of term. By enrolling, each student grants a license to reproduce and display their work online, in forthcoming print publications, and in public exhibitions.

Ownership

For the purposes of continuous improvement efforts, such as accreditations and periodic program reviews, the School will select samples of student work submitted to satisfy course requirements. This includes digital files, papers, drawings, models, etc. Collected samples may be returned to students upon request.

College of Design Facility Rules and Guidelines

Please consult the [Georgia Tech Student Handbook](#) regarding the use of facilities and all Institute policies. Aerosol sprays of any kind are strictly banned from the studio and surrounding areas. A spray painting booth is available in the College of Design shop on the ground floor of the East Architecture Building.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Per the [GT Catalog](#), all work produced in the College of Design as part of a degree program becomes the property of the College; it may be retained or returned at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty of the School of Architecture reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

Emergencies

In case of emergency (e.g., fire, accident, or criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500. Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator for the College of Design, is also a firefighter and EMT certified in performing CPR.