CS 8001 OCT Syllabus

Collaborative Team Skills for Software Development

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

Our course provides students with a survey of the collaborative skills required for software development. The course consists primarily of a series of peer-reviewed papers on which you will provide a brief reflection essay that you will upload as an assignment. Additionally, you may attend an optional synchronous video meeting with your instructor to ask questions or discuss topics of your choosing. The expected weekly workload is approximately 3 hours and 20 minutes. This represents one-third of the work for a three-credit-hour course in OMSCS.

Overarching goal: Develop an understanding of the collaborative team skills required for effective software development.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the semester's end, the student will develop an understanding of the following concepts:

- *Team mechanics*
  - Communication (intra- and extra-team communication).
  - Conflict resolution.
- *Continuous improvement*
  - Fluid leadership model.
  - Remote/distributed teams.
- *High-performing teams*
  - Fostering motivation and engagement.
  - Personal accountability; collective responsibility.

Required Course Materials

All readings are made available on Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Getting a PASSING grade in the Course. Simple: do these things:

1. Do excellent work
2. Submit assignments on time
3. Respond to (and implement) assignment feedback given in Canvas
4. Respond to correspondence appropriately
5. Monitor ED Discussion and email

***Returning grades*.** Our grading staff will *attempt* to return assignment grades within one week after the due date.

Description of Graded Components

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be assigned as a PASS or FAIL, according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	**Percent Grade**
PASS	**90-100%**
PASS	**80-89%**
PASS	**70-79%**
FAIL	**60-69%**
FAIL	**0-59%**

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Any graded items submitted late incur a 5% per-day deduction. This can be overridden by instructional staff if the student works through the Office of the Dean of Students regarding their specific situation. This office is also available 24 hours a day for emergencies.

Success in the Course. It is critical to both attend all meetings (when applicable) *and* review online materials (Canvas, etc.).

Grade Challenges. If you believe a grade was not appropriate, please create a private post in our online forum within one week after the grade was assigned.

AI Collaboration Information

We are using **Dr. David Joyner's AI collaboration policy** in our class. Please note that our AI policy is subject to ongoing revision due to rapid change and new developments in this domain. If anything changes, you will be notified via the usual communication channel(s). Please cite the use of AI in accordance with APA guidelines. An example is provided below from the Musselman Library at Gettysburg College:

APA Reference/Citation Example

Reference: OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Sep 27 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/chatLinks to an external site.

In-text: (OpenAI, 2023)

The Most Important Thing About AI Usage

Please exercise considerable self-awareness when using it. It's a *tool to improve skills and expedite basic workflows, not to create assignment deliverables*. Over-reliance on AI may diminish creativity and critical thinking - two of the most essential traits for success in computer science.

Course Structure, Terms, and Naming Conventions

Mentor - This is the person with whom you will be working directly throughout the semester. If there are no TAs in the class, this will be your co-instructor or instructor.

If you're new to OMSCS or Canvas, it may be helpful to understand the course's basic architecture and naming conventions. Please see the terms below:

Module - A learning component. May contain references to resources, tasks, assignments, and quizzes. Assignments and quizzes are uploaded in the Grades section. **Please note that some modules may not have a separate page; assignments or quizzes may be listed under the module.**

Assignment - Something you will upload in the Grades section. Please pay attention to the Assignment description and rubric, which are part of each assignment.

Quizzes - Usually short "tests" that you can take as many times as you'd like. Only the highest grade is counted.

Naming conventions. Different learning components in this course are assigned prefixes. The prefix consists of three (3) parts:

1. Learning component **type**, e.g., M for module, A for assignment, and Q for quiz.

2. The **week** during which you should work with the component, e.g., 01, is the first week of the course
3. A dash and the **name** of the learning component, e.g., "-ModuleOne", is a fictitious component name as shown below
4. EC is the exception; this represents Extra Credit.

Please note that there is no A01 component in this course. Please see below for **examples.**

- M01-ModuleOne - This is a *fictitious* module that begins during Week 1 in the course; its name is ModuleOne.
- A01-AssignmentOne - This is a *fictitious* assignment you should complete during Week 1 in the course, and upload into the Grades section.
- Q09-FakeQuiz - This is a *fictitious* quiz you should complete during Week 9 of the course.

Office Hour Weekly Discussion

There are *optional* weekly meetings during office hours. Please see the Canvas home page for the schedule. During these meetings, we'll discuss the research paper on which your recently submitted assigned reflection was based. The video recording of the weekly office-hour discussion will be posted to the Media Gallery Canvas page, accessible via the Media Gallery menu link, as soon as possible each week.

Teaching Philosophy and Related Matters

First and foremost, this class highly values diversity, as articulated in the principle of Ubuntu: "I am because we are." I'm grateful for who *you* are because that's what *we* are as a class. As your instructional staff, we pledge to do our best to promote a learning environment that fosters empathy and responsibility.

Finally, we're incredibly passionate about what we do. Please contact us at any time. We're excited to work with you!

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 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.

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

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.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

There are no formal pre- or co-requisites. The primary "informal prerequisite" is a desire to learn.