

Thesis Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: CS8999
Course Name: Doctoral Thesis Prep
Instructor: De Choudhury, Munmun

Course Description

This course provides academic credit for preparatory work toward doctoral thesis research conducted under the guidance of a Georgia Tech faculty advisor (in this case Dr. De Choudhury). It is designed to support the early-stage development of a dissertation agenda, including the identification of research problems, synthesis of relevant literature, and articulation of potential contributions. While the course does not include formal lectures or examinations, students engage in structured, self-directed activities that lay the foundation for rigorous and impactful research. Areas of inquiry may span computing and interdisciplinary domains, including computational social science, human-centered AI, and the study of digital behaviors, well-being, and the societal implications of data-driven technologies. The scope and direction of the work are determined collaboratively by the student and advisor, in alignment with degree requirements and longer-term research goals.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

- Identify and scope a coherent doctoral research agenda grounded in significant and societally relevant problems.
- Conduct critical synthesis of prior literature to situate proposed research within existing scholarship and theoretical frameworks.
- Formulate clear, tractable, and impactful research questions, particularly in areas involving human-centered and societal dimensions of computing.
- Develop preliminary methodological approaches appropriate to the research problem, including computational, experimental, qualitative, or mixed methods.
- Articulate prospective contributions, implications, and ethical considerations of the proposed research.
- Communicate emerging research ideas effectively through written proposals, discussions with advisors, and, where applicable, interactions with thesis committees.

Required Course Materials

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

Grading Policy

This course is graded on a Satisfactory (S) / Unsatisfactory (U) basis.

- A grade of Satisfactory (S) indicates that the student has made acceptable progress in their research toward degree completion, consistent with the number of thesis credit hours for which the student is enrolled for the semester.
- A grade of Unsatisfactory (U) indicates that the student did not meet the expectations for satisfactory performance during the term.

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 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 and the , especially [.Student Code of ConductAcademic Honor CodeAppendix 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 , and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research for this thesis course.[Responsible Conduct of Research training](#)

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, 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. [contact the Office of Disability Services](#)

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 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. [Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#)