

**George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering**

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

**Syllabus**

**ME9000-LIA  
(CRN: 50080)**

**Doctoral Thesis**

**Summer 2026**

**(Revised 4/4/2026)**

**Course Description:** This course provides academic credit for independent thesis research conducted under the supervision of Professor Steven Y. Liang. The scope and direction of research are determined by the student in consultation with Professor Liang, consistent with the requirements of the degree program.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** By enrolling in this course, students will: 1. Engage in independent research study under Professor Liang's supervision. 2. Gain experience in formulating research questions and applying methods appropriate to their discipline. 3. Communicate research activity through interactions with Professor Liang and, as applicable, their Thesis Advisory Committee.

**Required Course Materials:** No textbooks or materials are required. Resources for research are determined in consultation with Professor Liang.

**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 the 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 Professor Liang. 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 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:** 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 reach out to Professor Liang 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. Simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment sought. Therefore, students are encouraged to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this course.