

EAS4698 – Undergraduate Research Assistantship: Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Alexander Robel

CRN: 87790

Semester: Fall 2026

Academic Year: 2026

Course description:

Undergraduate research is a research, scholarly, or creative project conducted by an undergraduate student under the guidance of a faculty mentor that contributes new knowledge and/or discoveries to the broader professional community.

Course learning outcomes:

- Expresses ideas orally in an organized, clear, and concise manner
- Demonstrates an ability to interpret, evaluate, and create visual representations of ideas
- Uses information in ways that demonstrate intellectual resourcefulness
- Demonstrates an ability to work independently and identify when guidance is needed
- Accepts constructive criticism and uses feedback effectively
- Uses a reflective and iterative approach to problem solving
- Demonstrates ability to formulate questions and hypotheses within the discipline
- Demonstrates ability to properly identify and/or generate reliable data
- Reads and applies information obtained from professional journals and other sources
- Shows understanding of the importance of principles of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Required Course Materials: None

Acceptable Student Conduct:

Students will discuss with Prof. Robel and agree on expectations before beginning undergraduate research course. Expectations should include the student's weekly time commitment; methods and frequency of communication between the student and mentor(s); how research will be recorded, stored, and shared; and when and how students will reflect on their successes and challenges. 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.

To support mutual respect and understanding between students and faculty, Georgia Tech faculty and students collectively adopted a list of student-faculty expectations. See the full Student-Faculty Expectations agreement here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>

Grading Policy:

Since research does not always have expected or consistent outcomes, class grading will be determined solely by the student's consistent application of effort, communication with Prof. Robel, willingness to consult the literature, and production of some final synthesis of research findings (even for null results).

Attendance Policy:

Undergraduate research students will participate in research activities on a weekly basis commensurate with registered credit hours and as discussed with Prof. Robel.

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic honor code: <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>

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.

Campus Resources:

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) provides resources and support for undergraduate research students and their mentors. Visit <https://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/> or contact UROP at urop@gatech.edu for more information.