

ECE 8903 - Special Problems Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: ECE 8903

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Christopher Rozell

Section: R09

CRN: 82261

Semester: Fall 2026

Academic Year: 2026-2027

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Gain experience in performing independent studies on topics that are not taught in a formalized course setting.

Required Course Materials

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

Student-Faculty expectations

We expect that you will communicate with your research mentors in a timely manner and be responsive on Slack and/or email.

Time Commitment: Students must meet the weekly time expectations based on credit hours. For each research credit hour, students are expected to dedicate 3-4 hours per week, on average, to their research tasks.

Make sure to discuss the specific expectations for your project, time commitments, and end of semester deliverables with your mentor at the beginning of the semester.

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

Research grades will be determined based on student effort and communication throughout the semester. Each student will discuss specific duties and deliverables with the research mentor at the start of the semester, and students will not be penalized for not achieving goals due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., experiment optimization, protocol approval delays, etc.). Grades will be assigned a letter grade according to the following breakdown:

Time Commitment & Reporting (70%) - Meet required weekly committed research hours (proportionally graded: i.e., time committed/time required * 70%)

Communication (10%) - Timely and professional communication with research mentors.

End of Semester Deliverables (20%) - Written semester report (4 pages) documenting your experiences and what you learned over the semester. Will include code, data, reports, documentation, and reflections as appropriate for the research topic. Due at 5pm ET on the last day of class.

Attendance Policy

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. This includes all in-person or remote lab work, meetings, readings, writing, and any other work that is directly related to the student's role in the lab.

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.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing 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.

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 e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations

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](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Additional information for research-related work is given in [The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#). 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.