

Special Problems Course

Hyesoon Kim

Course Information

- **Course prefix and number:** ECE 8903 K10
- **Course name:** Special Problems
- **Instructor:** Hyesoon Kim (hyesoon@cc.gatech.edu)
- **Semester and academic year:** Fall 2026

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 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. If a textbook or other material that carries an ISBN is assigned later in the term, it will be identified by full citation (including ISBN for books).

Grading Policy

This course is graded on a letter grade basis.

The grade will be assigned based on agreed upon objectives commensurate with the difficulty and scope of the project, the number of credit hours, as well as the technical proficiency of the student. It is the joint responsibility of the instructor and the student to discuss expectations and how meeting or not the expectations affects the final grade. The grading process will be clearly articulated to the student to allow reasonable prediction progress towards the final grade throughout the semester.

Weighting: This individualized course does not use fixed percentage weights for traditional components (e.g., midterm, final). The final letter grade reflects performance against objectives and deliverables agreed with the instructor, documented at the start of or during the term.

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.

Additional Criteria for Successful Completion

Successful completion requires meeting objectives and expectations agreed with the instructor, maintaining contact and engagement appropriate to the registered credit hours, completing any documented deliverables or milestones, and complying with all applicable Georgia Tech academic and conduct policies.

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](#).

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 Agreement](#) articulates 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.

Office of Disability Services

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 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.