

Special Topics

Course Information

Instructor: Anju Toor (anju@gatech.edu)

Course Prefix and Number: MSE 8801S

Term: Fall 2026

Course Description

MSE 8801S is the weekly seminar for the School of Materials Science and Engineering. Its purpose is to expose graduate students to state-of-the-art topics in the materials science and engineering discipline ranging from ongoing research at academic and national lab institutions to materials-related research and product development in industry. Speakers may also provide students with information on a range of topics of general interest to the scientific/engineering community including industrial safety, entrepreneurship, government relations, and the history / sociology of technology.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Engage with contemporary research topics in materials science and engineering through regular participation in departmental seminars.
2. Identify emerging directions, methodologies, and challenges across subfields of materials science and engineering.
3. Integrate seminar insights into their own research development and scholarly perspective.

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required.

Grading Policy

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

- Students must earn 10 “seminar points” to receive a “**Satisfactory**” grade.
- The first 8 seminars are worth 1 seminar point; the next 4 seminars are worth 2 seminar points.

Attendance Policy

Students will virtually sign the attendance sheet on Canvas during the seminar to earn seminar points. Attendance may be taken in person some weeks. Falsely signing the attendance sheet will automatically lead to receiving an unsatisfactory for the final grade.

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](#).

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.

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 [Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#) 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.