

ID 6211 Graduate Studio One Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: ID 6211

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Leila Aflatoony

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Course Description

This course explores the intersection of assistive technology, wearable systems, and human-centered design in the context of health, accessibility, and human capability. Rather than focusing solely on compensation, the course challenges students to design wearable solutions that extend, augment, and reimagine human abilities. Through a hands-on, research-driven approach, students engage in participatory and speculative design to explore lived experiences, aspirations, and future possibilities. The course guides students through the full design lifecycle—from problem framing and ideation to prototyping and evaluation—while critically examining how wearable technologies can support independence, agency, and expanded forms of interaction with the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Design wearable technologies that extend and augment human abilities, supporting new forms of interaction, performance, and experience.
- Apply human-centered design methods to frame opportunities, generate concepts, and iteratively prototype wearable systems.
- Conduct qualitative research to understand user experiences, aspirations, and contexts of use.
- Use participatory design approaches to co-create with diverse stakeholders and incorporate their perspectives into the design process.
- Employ speculative design methods to envision alternative futures and critically explore the role of wearable technologies in shaping human capability.
- Analyze and synthesize insights from research and literature to inform design decisions and articulate design rationale.
- Develop and prototype wearable systems and interfaces using appropriate tools, materials, and prototyping techniques.

Course Format:

An activity-oriented discussion-based seminar, twice weekly. Instructional methods for teaching the course include:

- Lectures and in-class discussions.
- Readings (no textbook).
- Group work during lecture time and weekly team-based homework.
- Presentation and project reviews.

Deliverables:

Researcher Journal (<i>pre-class preparation on readings</i>)	20%
Project (<i>approximately 5 milestones/design reviews</i>)	70%
• Project Milestone 1 - Empathize (15%)	
• Project Milestone 2 - Define (10%)	
• Project Milestone 3 - Ideate (10%)	
• Project Milestone 4 - Prototype (15%)	
• Project Milestone 5 - Test (15%)	
• Final Presentation - Research Process + Wearable Design Poster (5%)	
Participation (<i>in-class activities, discussions, contributions to solo and group activities</i>) and attendance	10%
Total	100%

Required Course Materials

No textbook is required. All course materials will be provided in PDF format.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on the Georgia Institute of Technology system. No plus or minuses will be applied to the final grade. However, plus and minuses will be used for all the submissions during the semester. Students will have one week after each project grade submissions to discuss any grading matters to the instructor. The grade ranges are defined as follows:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 0-59% = F

Attendance Policy

Students will work independently with the course content and participate in a synchronous check-in session once per week.

Attendance policy and expectations

1. There are no formal institutional requirements regarding class attendance at Georgia Tech. The resources of the Institute are provided for the intellectual growth and development of the students who attend. A schedule of courses is provided for the students and faculty to

facilitate an orderly arrangement of the program of instruction. The fact that classes are scheduled is evidence that attendance is important; students should, therefore, maintain regular attendance if they are to attain maximum success in the pursuit of their studies.

2. All students are responsible for obtaining an understanding of each instructor's policy regarding absences; all students are expected to attend announced quizzes, laboratory periods, and final examinations. Although it is recognized that occasionally it may be necessary for students to be absent from scheduled classes or laboratories for personal reasons, students are responsible for all material covered in their absences, and they are responsible for the academic consequences of their absences. Students should discuss planned absences with their instructors as soon as possible after the beginning of an academic term. Work missed may be made up at the discretion of the instructors.
3. In the event of a medical emergency or an illness that is severe enough to require medical attention, students are responsible for contacting the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible to report the medical issue or emergency, providing dated documentation from a medical professional and requesting assistance in notifying their instructors. The medical documentation will be handled confidentially within the Office of the Dean of Students and will inform a decision as to whether communication with instructional faculty is appropriate. It is the expectation of the Institute that instructional faculty will honor a request from the Office of the Dean of Students to excuse a medical emergency or illness and allow make-up of the work missed, including homeworks, quizzes, presentations, examinations, or other class assignments.
4. Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. Course instructors are responsible for establishing reasonable deadlines and/or make-up materials for the missed work, and for clearly communicating this information to the relevant student(s), when absences for Institute activities are approved.
5. Student Responsibilities
 - a. Individual students requesting approval from the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee are expected to do so at least two weeks before their requested absences;
 - b. Students are expected to inform their instructors about their approved absence by the end of the class meeting immediately following receipt of their approval notice.
6. Course Instructor Responsibilities
 - a. Course instructors receiving timely notification of student absence (as outlined above) are expected to establish reasonable deadlines and/or make-up materials

for missed work, and for clearly communicating this information to the relevant student(s).

7. Faculty/Staff Sponsor Responsibilities
 - a. Faculty/staff sponsors of student organizations are expected to submit requests for absence approval, to the Office of the Registrar, at least one week before the date of the expected absence(s);
 - b. Faculty/staff sponsors are expected to provide the Office of the Registrar with roster changes in as timely a fashion as possible, to reduce negative impact on the ability of students and instructors to coordinate their plans;
 - c. Faculty/staff sponsors are expected to notify students of approved absences, along with instructions for notifying their instructors, within two business days of receipt of approval from the Office of the Registrar.
8. Students who are absent because of participation in a particular religious observance will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absence with no late penalty, provided the student informs the course instructor of the upcoming absence, in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and provided the student makes up the missed material within the time frame established by the course instructor. Exercising one's rights under this policy is subject to the Georgia Tech Honor Code. The course instructor is responsible for establishing reasonable deadlines and/or make-up material for the missed work, and for clearly communicating this information to the student. Students may choose to appeal to the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate for formal approval of this type of absence.
9. In alignment with **section 4.1.3 of the University System of Georgia (USG)'s general Student Affairs policy**, students are encouraged to vote in all federal, state, and local elections. Students are encouraged to plan their voting to avoid missing classes. Students are also encouraged to participate in early voting whenever possible or to vote before, in between, or after classes on election day. For students who are registered elsewhere, they are encouraged to request absentee ballots by the appropriate deadlines. However, faculty should not penalize students for missing a class to vote on election day. In this case, a student should inform the course instructor at least 5 business days before election day about the absence for voting in writing. The course instructor is expected to treat the absence as an officially excused absence if a student chooses to vote in person on election day.
10. Faculty members must provide students with reasonable accommodations for making up graded work missed while on jury duty.

Academic 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.

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 Well-being

At Georgia Tech, you are recognized as a human being navigating life's ups and downs. You may experience negative stressors that can impact both your academic journey and your personal wellness. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, mental health, alcohol or other drugs, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing disruptive challenges, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. A comprehensive list of student services and resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being, and you can find access that list here: <https://students.gatech.edu/student-resource-guide>Links to an external site.

- a) In an emergency, please call Georgia Tech Police Department at (404) 894-2500 or 911.
- b) For immediate mental health support, you can call the Center for Mental Health Care and Resources at (404) 894-2575.
- c) You can call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org.

Student Code of Conduct

You can find the link to Code of Conduct and more information here:
<https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>

Modified Operations Policies

With developments and improvements to digital instruction over the past few years, the Institute has developed policies to leverage digital learning as much as reasonably possible. The policy sets forth requirements, procedures, and responsibilities related to the scheduling of digital instruction and/or make-up classes due to the modification of campus operations, closing of campus, or the necessary closing of instructional spaces for any reason (including but not limited to emergencies, such as inclement weather, power outages, or other infrastructure failures). Students should await communications from their instructors regarding delivery of their classes during that period based upon the Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations Policy. Students should follow guidance and/or directions provided by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being regarding student activities, events, programs and services.