

ID 6400 Syllabus

Master Project, Section TGP, 1-12 Credits, Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours & Links
Tim Purdy	tim.purdy@design.gatech.edu mailto:tim.purdy@design.gatech.edu	Tuesday 8 - 9 pm Thursday 11 - noon Email me to meet at other times

To meet students' requirements, needs, and comfort levels, meetings and office hours will be offered in-person, virtually, or outdoors. Please email me to setup a meeting.

General Information

All MID students will develop an independent masters-level thesis or project. The thesis/project will engage problems in design which may be theoretical, applied, or innovative in nature. All master students demonstrate through the thesis/project the ability to define a design challenge or research question which is framed within an existing body of knowledge, conduct design research to objectively investigate the challenge/question, develop and implement methods to objectively investigate the question, demonstrate the ability to apply results of investigations to design practice, and communicate the results in written and verbal form.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students are expected to demonstrate knowledge, skill and abilities in the following areas:

- Define a design problem or challenge related to a chosen topic of interest that can be investigated
- Demonstrate understanding of previous work and the current state of the art in the chosen area
- Demonstrate ability to develop and implement valid methods to investigate the problem/challenge
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret data from the investigation and draw valid conclusions
- Persuasively present conclusions and impacts from the results orally and in writing

Description of Graded Components

Each assignment has its own description and rubrics for grading. A student must have a 70 or above to receive credit for the course.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

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

Submission Requirements

All assignment files are to be turned in electronically through the Canvas system. File and folders can be comprised and submitted in a zip format for easier submissions. If a PDF is required for submission, submit it separately in Canvas so it can easily be reviewed.

Course Materials

MID Handbook: [MID Handbook](#) 

https://gtvault.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/MIDStudentMeetings2/EdTy66OlGf5DrY5KJLEj8QwBnm8c80eQQIBv0N_BGOMKXQ?e=6eCjcx


Theses & Dissertations Resources: <https://grad.gatech.edu/theses-dissertations> 

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Additional Materials/Resources

Each student has a \$500 budget to use on their Master Thesis/Project. Please see the MID Handbook for spending and reimbursement guidelines.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Please review the [Georgia Tech's AI Standards and Guidance](https://oit.gatech.edu/ai/guidance)  <https://oit.gatech.edu/ai/guidance> page for important information about the proper use of AI tools. Please note that some AI tools such as "DeepSeek should not be used for Institute-related work, research, or any activities involving Georgia Tech data."

The School of Industrial Design AI policy toward your Master Thesis or Project work is the following. The document for your Master Thesis or Project must be your own work. Once written, you can use AI tools to clean up text or polish the document.

It is fine to get research assistance from AI as long as you put both your prompt and the resulting text as an appendix at the end of document, and list it in your reference list. Just as with any other source, if you use an AI bot's exact words, enclose them in quotes and put the citation in parentheses. Be cautious in using AI for research assistance, as all existing AI apps 'hallucinate' and supply false information; don't rely on AI for accurate

information, but always fact-check and read the original source.

Other material that you develop for your Master Thesis or Project (such as storyboards, product renderings, etc) can be generated using AI tools but must be properly cited. This includes the written documentation as well as any presentation materials such as presentation slides, screen slides and poster.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> (<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/>) or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/> (<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>).

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.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>), 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.

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. 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](https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/digital-learning-days-modified-campus-operations) (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/digital-learning-days-modified-campus-operations>). 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.

Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> (<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/%20>) for an articulation of 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.

