

## **MUSI1801 Special Topics: Intro to Music Technology**

**1 credit hour | Fall 2026**

This seminar course is designed to help you make a successful transition to college by becoming better acquainted with the academic and social environments here at Georgia Tech. Throughout the course, we will discuss topics and tools that will prepare you to study Music Technology at Tech. You will be introduced to the School of Music faculty, coursework, labs, curriculum, and alums to help you start your Music Tech journey.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to describe the field of music technology and how we approach it at Georgia Tech.
2. Students will develop self-awareness and self-knowledge, particularly for the development of personal and professional goals.
3. Students will be able to describe their path to graduation and to identify resources and enrichment opportunities available at the School of Music and at Georgia Tech.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to lead and productively participate in collaborative projects. Students will develop connections with their peers and the School of Music faculty and staff.

### **Instructor**

Jocelyn Kavanagh  
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### **Grading Breakdown:**

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Participation | 40% |
| Soundscape    | 15% |
| Academic Plan | 15% |
| Resume        | 15% |

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Interview    | 15%         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### ***Participation (worth 40 points)***

We will have 14 class meetings this semester. Your presence and active participation in class is key in this course. Your attendance is required at all class meetings, and attendance will be graded during 12 classes (the attendance grade during 2 class meetings will be dropped). If you are going to miss a class, send me an email with at least an hour's notice for an exemption.

### ***Class Projects (worth 15 points each)***

In addition to your weekly assignments, there will be 4 projects for this course:

1. **Soundscape:** For this assignment, You will work with a team to collect sounds around campus to create a musical collage. This project is designed to help you become familiar with Georgia Tech's campus and the resources available to you at the SoM and on campus. Additionally, you will learn how to work with a group.
2. **Resume:** In this course, we'll talk about your career goals and professional aspirations. For this assignment, you'll refine your resume and create your CareerBuzz and LinkedIn profiles.
3. **Academic Plan:** In this course, you will learn about your options for your concentration/minor and the various music tech courses and free electives at Georgia Tech. For this assignment, you will develop a specific academic plan which you can use as a guide for registration in future semesters.
4. **Interview:** In this course, you will gain a better understanding of music technology and the work that goes on at the School of Music. For this assignment, you will conduct a short, 30-minute interview with a faculty member, grad student, or alum to gain more insight into their work or experience at Tech.

### **Course Expectations and Guidelines:**

1. You are expected to check Canvas for this course. Important class announcements and information will be posted to Canvas. You are responsible for all materials posted.
2. Grades will be posted to Canvas throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of your submitted assignments and grade progress throughout the semester.
3. All assignments are due at 11:59pm EDT and MUST be submitted electronically via Canvas. Assignments can be turned in up to one week after the due date. Late assignments will be penalized a letter grade a day.
4. Be an active participant in class. This course is meant to help you prepare for your time here at Tech and form bonds with your cohort. Please come to class ready to join in on discussions in a respectful, constructive manner.

### **Changing of Course Requirements:**

Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, it may be necessary to modify the above requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. For example, the number and frequency of exams may be changed, or the number and sequence of assignments will be altered. In either of these cases, adequate notification will be given in writing and be discussed in class.

### **Required Materials:**

There are no required materials for this course.

### **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. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism 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.

### **AI Policy:**

Use of Generative AI is permitted in this course but only for approved assignments. If allowed, its use must be transparent and documented in a required AI Usage Statement with each submission.

The statement must include:

- Tool used and date of access
- The input (prompt) you provided

- A copy of the output
- A description of how you used or edited the AI-generated content

Failure to follow these guidelines—including using Generative AI when it is not permitted or failing to disclose its use—may be considered a violation of Georgia Tech’s academic integrity policies. When in doubt, always consult your instructor before using Generative AI.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) 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 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 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.

### **Student Well Being:**

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being (student-resource-guide (gatech.edu)

More resources on supporting student well-being on the syllabus and beyond are available through the Learning Well Initiative.