

PSYC6040: Topics in Cognitive and Brain Sciences  
Section: B  
Credits: 1

Fall 2026

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### Instructor Information

Instructor: Thackery Brown  
Email: [tbrown338@gatech.edu](mailto:tbrown338@gatech.edu)

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### General Course Information

Topics in Cognitive and Brain Sciences is a “brown bag” student-led seminar course for students in the CBS graduate program area and related graduate programs in the School of Psychology. The objective of the course is to provide a venue for students to gain experience presenting their research ideas or results to each other and to the School faculty, preparing them for sharing and defending their work outside of the School to both academic and non-academic audiences.

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### Course Learning Outcomes

Student participants should be able to:

- **Formulate** and refine testable hypotheses that address meaningful theoretical or methodological gaps in the Cognitive psychology and Neuroscience literature.
- **Translate** raw scientific findings into professional deliverables, such as academic conference posters, study proposals, or scientific talks.
- **Communicate** the above formulations and translations to your peers and advisors, showing awareness of the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the research, and providing meaningful feedback to peers who present their work.

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### Required Course Material

There is no required textbook for this course.

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### Grading Policy

Because this course functions as an individualized research presentation and discussion forum, rather than a traditional seminar, your grade is not determined by a weighted point system or standardized exams. Instead, your evaluation is based holistically on your consistent participation as a presenter and provider of feedback, and demonstrating growth as a scientific thinker.

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### Course Policies

**Students are expected to attend and participate** in the brown bag sessions.

Your "attendance" in this course is defined by your professional engagement. You are required to attend and actively contribute to all scheduled meetings, but are allowed to miss up to 30% due to valid conflicts without affecting the grade (see also Professional Absences below).

## **Students are expected to present at least once per academic year**

The nature of the presentation is flexible, and is arranged with the instructor when signing up for a presentation time. Examples include full-length research project presentations, less-formal research idea proposals, practice talks for academic conferences or job applications, or critical discussion of a significant paper in the field.

## **Professional Absences**

Absences required for critical academic milestones, such as presenting at a conference, attending cross-institutional research meetings, or conducting field data collection, are expected and supported. If you need to miss a class due to illness or a professional obligation, you must communicate this in advance when at all possible.

## **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

## **Campus Resources for Students**

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In your time at Georgia Tech, you may find yourself in need of support. Below you will find some resources to support you both as a student and as a person.

### **Academic support**

- Center for Academic Success <http://success.gatech.edu>
  - 1-to-1 tutoring <http://success.gatech.edu/1-1-tutoring>
  - Peer-Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) <http://success.gatech.edu/tutoring/plus>
  - Academic coaching <http://success.gatech.edu/coaching>
- Residence Life's Learning Assistance Program <https://housing.gatech.edu/learning-assistance-program>
  - Drop-in tutoring for many 1000 level courses
- OMED: Educational Services (<http://omed.gatech.edu/programs/academic-support>)
  - Group study sessions and tutoring programs
- Communication Center (<http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu>)
  - Individualized help with writing and multimedia projects
- Academic advisors for your major <http://advising.gatech.edu/>

### **Personal Support**

Georgia Tech Resources

- The Office of the Dean of Students: <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/services>; 404-894-6367; Smithgall Student Services Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - You also may request assistance at [https://gatech-advocate.symplcity.com/care\\_report/index.php/pid383662?](https://gatech-advocate.symplcity.com/care_report/index.php/pid383662?)
- Counseling Center: <http://counseling.gatech.edu>; 404-894-2575; Smithgall Student Services Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources.
  - *Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.*
- Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR): <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/need-help>
  - Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs.
- Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu>; 404-894-1420
  - Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition
- Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2067
- Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500