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# Special Topics

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**MUSI 4843****Fall 2026**

**Course Hours:** Individual meeting times  
**Location:** Couch 204, Rich 133A and individual locations  
**Credits:** 3 credit hours  
**CRN:** 94038/ 93340

**Instructor:** Henrik von Coler  
**Email:** hvc@gatech.edu  
**Office:** Couch 209  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

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## 1 General Course Information

### 1.1) Course Description

This course treats special topics in music technology in a classroom concept. Each semester, a relevant topic is selected. The research-focused and creative topics are based on the ongoing projects of the Lab for Interaction and Immersion (L42i).

### 1.2) Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. work in teams on ongoing long-term projects,
2. situate the work in relation to relevant precedents,
3. present a technically and conceptually coherent outcome,
4. document the process and result in a professional form.

### 1.3) Attendance Policy

This course is organized in regular mandatory class meetings. Attendance is part of the grading, as outlined in the course grading policies in the remainder of this document.

### 1.4) Course Materials

Relevant materials will be provided or linked in the official Canvas course.

## 2 Grading

### 2.1) Component Weighting

The overall grade consists of:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Attendance	15%
Project work	35%
Paper	25%
Public presentations	25%

### 2.2) Description of Graded Components

#### ***Attendance***

Presence is mandatory at scheduled class hours. Mandatory individual meetings will be scheduled as needed.

#### ***Project Work***

Individual or group project spanning one or multiple semesters. Grades will assigned according to quality, significance, and impact of the individual contribution. Students are expected to work on research questions and creative projects independently and complete assigned tasks in a timely manner.

#### ***Paper***

A paper is written for every semester of this class, documenting the progress and outcomes. Papers are written in conference style, describing the project in a scientific style in a quality that would allow conference submission. Grades will be assigned according to structure, clarity, references, quality of information, and form.

#### ***Public Presentations***

A final presentation during the Schoon of Music's demo day concludes every semester of this research class. Depending on the nature of the project, either of the following presentation modes applies:

- A) Demonstration with accompanying poster for research projects.
- B) Performance or installation of creative projects.

### 2.3) Grading Policies

All graded components will be graded in points. The final grade for the course will be determined by dividing the total points earned by the number of points possible for each of the categories listed above. These numbers will be converted into a letter grade according to the following scale:

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	100–90%
B	89–80%
C	79–70%
D	69–60%
F	59% and below

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### **3 Course Policies and General Information**

#### **3.1) Communication**

All relevant deadlines for submissions and assignments will be published in the course's Canvas page. All additional communication happens in a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel for the course.

#### **3.2) Use of Tools, Code, and Media**

In courses involving software, hardware, audio systems, or creative tools, students are expected to use institutional resources responsibly, back up their work, and document external materials clearly. When generative or assistive tools are used, students should be prepared to explain their process and indicate where such tools materially shaped the submitted work.

#### **3.3) 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](#). Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner.

#### **3.4) 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.

#### **3.5) 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.