

AECT 2030 Syllabus

Leaders in Progress & Service for the Creative Industries, 2 credits
Fall 20206

Instructor Information

Instructor

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General Course Information

Description

What is “Progress and Service” and how does Georgia Tech prepare leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition? In this course, specifically designed for first-year majors in arts, entertainment, and creative technologies, you will explore the nature of complex problems that impact humanity while investigating your own unique potential as creative leaders to impact these problems. Through interactions with faculty, peers, and creative industry and arts community leaders, you will learn to tackle complex problems from multiple perspectives, equipping you with greater insight into the roles and actions that enable leaders to make change. You’ll also use tools of reflection to begin developing your own unique identity as a professional, and begin to make connections between you, your role as a professional, and the impact you have on society. This course has a particular focus on the professional pathways, career identity development, and nuanced perspectives on progress and service that are most relevant to creative industries such as film, television, gaming, and immersive media, as well as to artistic practices blending art and technology.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have the foundational ability to:

- Integrate multiple perspectives in defining complex problems
- Reflect on their identity development as professionals
- Describe how their actions as creative professionals impact society
- Interpret a complex problem through an artistic provocation
- Identify complex questions of leadership at the intersection of technology and the creative industries / the arts
- Consider the wide variety of career pathways at the intersection of arts, entertainment, and creative technologies

Leaders in Progress and Service

This course serves as a foundational course for Georgia Tech's Leaders in Progress and Service Graduation Distinction. Successful completion of the entire Leaders in Progress and Service (LP&S) educational sequence will result in the award of the "*Leader in Progress and Service*" graduation distinction, to be recorded on the diploma.

The LP&S educational sequence requires completion of:

- An LP&S-approved foundational course with a grade of "B" or better,
- three LP&S-approved "immersive learning" experiences (such as undergraduate research, study abroad, VIP, Create-X, community service), accompanied by completion of mentoring and reflection with an LP&S Mentor, spread over 3 semesters, and
- participation in a campus-wide Progress and Service Summit, hosted by LP&S and attended by invited experts, students, faculty, employers, and other community partners, along with an accompanying final reflection.

Learn more about Leaders in Progress and Service at <https://distinguishyourself.gatech.edu> Links to an external site.. More information about the LP&S educational sequence will be provided over the course of the semester.

Required Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. Readings, required exercises, and other materials to prepare for class will be posted to Canvas prior to class meetings.

Grading Policy:

Class and Reading Engagement	150 points
Professional Identity Statement	150 points
Informational Interview	200 points
Event Attendance and Reflection	100 points
Final Group Project	300 points
Final Reflection	100 points

You have the opportunity to earn up to 1000 points over the course of the semester. Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F 0-599 points

Description of Graded Components

Class and Reading Engagement

Most weeks, we will assign reading and/or other materials to prepare in advance of our class meeting. We will ask you to begin discussion of this reading using Perusall, reflecting on how the material relates to your own leadership journey and what questions are brought up for you by what you read. We also expect you to engage actively in class discussion, both around the readings and also in prepared and thoughtful questions for our guest speakers.

Informational Interview

Part of the purpose of this course is to help you reflect on your own unique identity as a creative professional, as well as the impact creative professionals' actions have on society. To advance your learning toward those goals, you will be required to interview a working professional in a field you have an interest in entering. You will analyze what you learned about how someone tells the story of their professional life, as well as the content of what you learned from the conversation, and the questions it brought up about your own creative path.

Professional Identity Statement

As you clarify your own values, talents, and interests, you will also begin to reflect on the unique contributions you can make within the profession (or professions) you are thinking of pursuing. This exercise will help you communicate to yourself and others the unique role you can play - a professional mission statement of sorts. This might be used as a framing piece of your creative portfolio, or on LinkedIn, your website, etc.

Event Attendance and Reflection

We are fortunate that Georgia Tech is itself a thriving creative community and also exists within an incredible creative ecosystem in metro Atlanta. During the semester, you will be expected to attend at least one event -- outside of class time -- that connects to themes of arts, creativity, entertainment, and/or technology, and to write a brief reflection connecting the event and your experience of it back to this course. We are providing recommendations for events, many of which are on campus or within a short walk of campus, and many of which are free to attend. There is also flexibility to attend an event that is not on our list, so long as you secure written permission in advance from one of the course instructors.

Final Group Project

About midway through the semester you will be assigned to a small group to complete a project in which you use the skills and perspectives you've learned in class to define, not solve, a complex problem and argue persuasively for why that problem is important to solve. You will have time in class to work on some aspects of the project, but there will also be a good bit of work your group will accomplish outside of class. Your project will include a group presentation on the problem worth solving, and an artistic provocation, in dialogue with the problem, inviting engagement with the problem from your audience.

Final Reflection

After finishing your group problem definition project and artistic provocation, you will individually write a problem definition reflection that illustrates what you learned over the course of the semester, and particularly during that project, about how one integrates multiple perspectives in defining complex problems at the intersection of arts and technology. This professional piece of writing will show how you have synthesized your learning in the course.

USG Required Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Given the small size, class meeting schedule, and interactive nature of this class, attendance is expected at each class meeting. Classes will not be offered virtually due to the interactive nature of the course, but we encourage you to obtain notes from a classmate and come to us with any questions if you need to miss class.

If you are not feeling well or are sick, including a cold, etc., please do not come to class. Let's protect one another from a whole host of contagious illnesses.

Georgia Tech's official attendance policy can be found at <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/Links to an external site.> . In addition to the GT rules, it states "All students are responsible for obtaining an understanding of each instructor's policy regarding absences." Information about how to notify instructors when you need to miss class and what kind of documentation you should provide is at: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/Links to an external site.> . If you are absent from class due to an excused absence, you must make up participation credit by writing a one-page response to the course readings due for that class, complete with citations, and submit it via the assignments portal within two weeks of your missed class and no later than the final class meeting of the semester. You can make up participation points for no more than three excused absences, total, over the course of the semester. If there is an extraordinary circumstance in which you need to have more than three excused absences, please speak to us.

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.

Additional Georgia Tech Required Policies

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. Note that accommodations cannot be given retroactively; they need to be discussed and approved in advance.

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 Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

While you may use a laptop or tablet for note taking and class work, please keep your mobile phone stored away and silent during class. If we notice you using any device for anything other than class, we will ask you to put it away.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities are not available in this course.

Collaboration and Group Work

Your work on your assignments should be your own. For the group project, we expect you to work out among your group an equitable division of labor, and work together on the overall direction of the project. If during your group project, you do not feel your team is working together in an equitable manner, please come to us sooner rather than later to help you facilitate a solution.

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/Links to an external site.> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/Links to an external site.>

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or exam will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Extensions and Late Assignments

We expect you to turn your assignments in on-time. We also understand occasional extraordinary circumstances, and we are not unreasonable if you have a truly extraordinary situation. As in your future professional life, communication about such situations is vital.

If your assignment is submitted on Canvas after the due date and time published, and we have not agreed in advance, in writing, on an extension or late submission, you will receive a 15% deduction in your grade for each day late.

Use of GenAI Tools

Use of Generative AI tools, such as Microsoft CoPilot, is permitted in this course but only within **instructor-approved boundaries**. You may use GenAI tools for research and exploratory tasks, to assist with writing and presentation support tasks such as grammar and style refinement, and as an artistic collaborator for the final group project's artistic provocation component. You **may not** use GenAI tools to summarize assigned reading or other class preparation assignments, to generate or help generate annotations posted in response to those materials, or to generate drafts or sections of drafts of any written assignment. When allowed, the use of GenAI 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.**

Campus Resources for Students

We want to see you succeed not just in this course, but at Georgia Tech and during this time of your life in general. If you need assistance in the course, or in other areas, please don’t hesitate to reach out for help. Resources to keep in mind if you’re facing challenges while at Tech include the Dean of Students (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu>[Links to an external site.](#)), the Counseling Center (<https://counseling.gatech.edu>[Links to an external site.](#)), the GT Police (<https://police.gatech.edu>[Links to an external site.](#)), Stamps Health Services (<https://health.gatech.edu>[Links to an external site.](#)), and the Department of Belonging and Student Support (<https://belonging.gatech.edu/studentssupport>[Links to an external site.](#)).

If you are having issues with housing, food insecurity, clothing, or other financial issues, please be aware of possible assistance available to you through the STAR Program (Students’ Temporary Assistance and Resources). More details on the STAR Program are available at: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/star-services>[Links to an external site.](#)