

GT 1000 First-Year Seminar Syllabus

MSE

Fall 2026

Course Prefix: GT
Course Number: 1000
Section Number: 90720
Course Name: First-Year Seminar
Semester: Fall 2026
Academic Year: 2026-2027

Instructors:

Tristen Jones

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Office Hours: **List Here** Love Building 291; By appointment (in-person or virtual), email Tristen to schedule.

Chelsea Harvey

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00PM, Love Building 286; By appointment (in-person or virtual) via Navigate 360 <https://gatech.campus.eab.com/pal/jzGVAvKf2z>

Team Leaders (TLs):

Ashley Burton

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WELCOME TO MSE GT 1000! 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. Through the course, you will acquire strategies that promote academic, social, and professional success! This is a highly interactive course that requires active student participation and working collaboratively in small groups.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Develop self-awareness and self-knowledge, particularly as it relates to academic interests and professional goals.
2. Describe their path to graduation and identify opportunities for academic and professional enrichment with the assistance of a faculty member or advisor.
3. Demonstrate the ability to lead and productively participate in collaborative projects.

Required Course Materials:

- CliftonStrengths Top 5 Strengths Insight Report
- Students can complete the Strengths Assessment at <http://gatech.gallup.com> (links to an external site). Students will need to register for an account using their @gatech.edu email address.

Class Schedule and Location:

Meeting Day & Time: Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:20 pm

Location: C341 Van Leer

Grading:

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

Participation & Attendance	25%
Team Project	25%
Design Your Academic Plan	25%
Career Exploration Project	25%
Total	100%

Grade Scale:

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

Technology:

We will be using Canvas in this course (<http://gatech.instructure.com>). You will need to log in with your GT Account info.

Course Assignments:

Attendance and Participation (25 points): This class is designed for students to become active, engaged participants, so it is vital that all students attend each class session and are fully engaged in all class activities. The success of our class depends on student participation, so you will earn points for your class participation. This means that you will need to do more than just show up at the appointed time and place—you will also need to come to class prepared to participate and ready to engage with your peers. To earn full credit for your attendance and participation, you will need to attend all classes and be actively engaged in class discussions and activities. Each class meeting is worth 2 POINTS.

Full attendance means arriving at class ON TIME and staying until class is dismissed. If you are using your cell phone, tablet, or laptop for anything other than in-class activities, you will not receive participation points for the day. It is our expectation that you will be on time for class and stay for the entirety.

Should you need to miss a class for any reason, you must contact Tristen or Chelsea via email immediately.

Career Exploration Project (25 points): This project is designed to help you think critically about your goals, values, and sense of purpose as you continue—or begin—to consider your plans after Tech. This assignment will ask you to reflect on your goals, ideate your future, prototype your plans, and take an active step forward in your career development plan. This assignment has two parts: a resume and a lookbook profile. (Lookbook profile will include possible opportunities to apply for)

Following the Career Center presentation, you will submit an updated resume based on the presentation materials.

As part of your reflection, create a Lookbook profile imagining yourself as a future Georgia Tech MSE graduate. Include a professional headshot, your LinkedIn profile link, your planned career path, and the steps you took to reach your goals. We will review examples in class to help you get started.

Assignment Due: September 29th

Design Your Academic Plan (25 points): This assignment will help you to map out your path to graduation and to think about how your current major aligns with your interests, strengths, and goals. For this assignment, you will delve deeper into your academic plan. This assignment will include multiple elements, all designed to help you on your path to graduation. This assignment has two parts: **a degree plan and a reflection essay.**

Write a reflection that outlines the academic and co-curricular experiences you would like to experience within your first year at GT. Then create a four-year academic plan, which should include courses, internships, co-ops, study abroad, and co-curricular experiences. Please create a plan via Degree Works and submit a snapshot via Canvas.

Assignment Due: November 17th

Team Project (25 points): One of the most important skills any person can learn is the ability to collaborate productively with a team and to demonstrate the ability to lead. This project is designed to help you develop the skills you will need to effectively work with your peers in a collaborative environment, whether that's in a class group project, your senior design or capstone experience, or in the professional world. The team project will consist of multiple parts including but not limited to research on the topic, interviews, communication with community partners, a presentation, and a reflection paper.

Directions for MSE GT1000 Team Project

Materials impact nearly every aspect of our lives, from the devices we use and the buildings we occupy to healthcare technologies and sustainable energy solutions.

For this semester-long project, your team will identify a real-world problem and propose a material-based solution. Rather than building a physical prototype, you will develop a conceptual prototype that demonstrates how your solution could work. Your project should show how materials science and engineering can be used to improve people's lives, address societal challenges, or create innovative products.

At the conclusion of the semester, teams will present their solution through a professional pitch, digital prototype, and executive summary.

Project Due: December 1st

Georgia Tech Values Statement

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success, and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our strategic plan (<https://strategicplan.gatech.edu/values>; Links to an external site.), we want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify me as soon as possible so we can resolve the issue. Students with disabilities should also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), whose purpose is to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff to create a campus environment that ensures all students have an equal opportunity to access the Georgia Tech community. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, dsinfo@gatech.edu, or disabilityservices.gatech.edu Please contact me ahead of time to discuss any issues related to disabilities. I am happy to work with you.

MSE CRSH Statement

What is CRSH?

Creating Resistance to Sexual Harassment (CRSH) is an initiative and committee dedicated to creating a community that actively resists sexual and gender harassment. For more information about CRSH, contact Dr. Mark Losego at losego@gatech.edu.

Help Create Resistance to Sexual Harassment <https://www.mse.gatech.edu/values/crshLinks to an external site.>

MSE is committed to a community that actively resists sexual and gender harassment. If you see or experience any of the following: sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, resources are available:

- **Confidential VOICE Advocates** ([VOICELinks to an external site.](#)) can provide support 24/7 and explore resources and options. If after hours, call GTPD dispatcher at 404-894-2500 and ask to speak to the On-Call VOICE Advocate. You do not need to make a report nor provide any information other than your phone number for a VOICE advocate to contact you.
- Sexual violence or harassment can be reported directly to Georgia Tech's **Title IX Coordinator**, James Newsome, (404) 385-5583 burnsnewsome@gatech.edu.

Faculty, Staff and TA's are mandatory reporters and are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Course Expectations and Guidelines:

1. The Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code applies to all work submitted in this course. To review the Honor Code, please visit <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-codeLinks to an external site.>
2. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation to participate fully in the course activities or meet course requirements are encouraged to register with the Disability Services Office at 404.894.2564 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.eduLinks to an external site.>. Please contact me ahead of time to discuss any issues related to disabilities.
3. You are expected to check your e-mail and Canvas daily. Important class announcements and information will be posted to Canvas. You are responsible for all materials posted.
4. 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.
5. GT 1000 is designed to be informative, helpful, and fun! However, the class does carry one credit towards your degree. For that reason, it is important that all assignments you submit be high-quality. Please double check your work for spelling and simple grammatical errors.

6. You can expect that as your GT 1000 instructors, we will come to class each day ready to engage you in learning about Georgia Tech and learning how to be a successful college student. Each class will be structured to encourage your active participation, so please come to class ready to participate and contribute to the class.
7. All assignments should follow proper formatting – 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced. Please include your name, the date, and the assignment title in the top right corner of the first page. If you have multiple pages, please use page numbers.
8. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments can be turned in up to one week after the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day.
9. Appropriate classroom behavior is always expected. This means that you should be respectful of your classmates, your TL, and your instructor.

Course Calendar:

**Please note topics and dates may be subject to change. Please practice patience and flexibility as we work to provide you with the best learning experience.

Week 1 (August 25): Starting Your Journey – Introduction to GT1000

Objectives: to review the syllabus and course projects, to meet the TL's and to meet MSE students in your cohort.

- Tristen Jones and Chelsea Harvey, GT1000 Instructors
- Next week: Take Strengths Assessment; post top 5 themes in Discussion Board on Canvas

Week 2 (September 1): Learning to Navigate GT

Objectives: to explore student leadership opportunities, learn about student leadership opportunities in MSE, and discuss how to navigate opportunities at GT and in MSE.

- GT1000 TL's
- Research Scholars Q&A

Week 3 (September 8): Strengths-based Leadership

Objectives: to learn about Strengths themes, to dialogue about strengths-based leadership, to explore how personal values support leadership behavior.

- Effective Team Dynamics

Week 4 (September 15) Career Exploration and Resume Prep

Objectives: Discuss Resume planning and career readiness. Review over Career Exploration Assignment.

- Shirley Manchester, Academic Advisor
- Resume
- Future Alumni Lookbook Profile

Week 5 (September 22): Resume Review Workshop

Objectives: Learn about Career Center resources and career planning

- Davia Woulard, Career Educator, Career Center

Week 6 (September 29): International Experiences (OIE) and Academic Coaching

Objectives: to explore international opportunities such as study abroad, research, and internships. To learn more about tutoring and academic coaching.

- OIE
- Academic Support and Tutoring
- TLs Talk about how they manage their stress and test anxiety

Week 7 (October 6th): Fall Break

Week 8 (October 13): Team Project- Problem Statement Submission

Objectives: Students will submit problem statement and work on project in groups for remainder of class.

Week 9 (October 20): Faculty Materials Science Demo

Week 10 (October 27): Academic Planning Pt. 1

Objectives: to explore MSE curriculum, to learn about tips and tricks pertaining to year 1 at GT.

- Shirley Manchester, Academic Advisor, GT1000 Instructor
 - GT1000 TL's

Week 11 (November 3): Exploratory Advising Presentation

- Nicole Leonard, Assistant Director of Exploratory Advising

Week 12 (November 10): Academic Planning Pt. 2

Objectives: To create a four-year academic plan, to encourage scholars to become familiar with program curriculum, to empower scholars to create a plan that includes academic and co-curricular experiences

- Shirley Manchester, Academic Advisor, GT1000 Instructor
- GT1000 TL's

Week 13 (November 17): Presentation Planning/2025 Alumni Panel

Objectives: to finalize your presentation for your team project, to practice presenting in a virtual format, and submit any supplemental materials for your presentation (handouts, slides, etc.); hear from recent Alumni about life after MSE

- GT 1000 Instructor - Tristen Jones
- TLs and Alumni

Week 14 (November 24): Work on Team Projects

Week 15 (December 1): Project Presentations

- Student Presentations: 5 minutes per group

Week 16 (December 8th): Prepping for Finals & Reflections on Fall Semester

Objectives: to provide an opportunity for students to learn tips and tricks to prepare for finals. Reflection discussion on your first semester.

- GT1000 TL's