

GT 1000 First-Year Seminar Syllabus

Course Prefix: GT

Course Number: 1000

Section Number: E02

Course Name: First-Year Seminar

Semester: Fall

Academic Year: 2026-2027

Instructor Information

Instructor: Julie Birchfield

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Instructor: Alison Southern

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General Course Information

Course Description:

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:

none

Grading Policy:

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

Participation, Short Assignments, and Attendance	25%
Team Project	25%
Academic Planning Project	25%
Career Readiness Project	25%
Total	100%

Grade Scale

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

Course Policies

Attendance Policy:

This class is designed for students to become active participants, so it's vital that all students attend each class session and are fully engaged in all class activities. This means

that you'll need to do more than just show up at the appointed time and place—you'll also need to come to class prepared to participate.

Please attend every scheduled meeting on time. That said, if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness (fever over 100.4 F, coughing, nausea, etc.), please stay home to rest, seek medical attention if appropriate, and contact me as soon as possible. Excessive lateness and absences (3 or more per semester) can negatively impact your final grade outcome. If you have extenuating circumstances, I will try and work with you to address those challenges. Please communicate early and often if you are struggling with issues that may call for accommodations.

Criteria for Successful Completion and Acceptable Student Conduct:

Creating an engaging and productive class experience is the responsibility of both the instructor and the students involved. To ensure you are getting the most out of our class and contributing positively to our learning environment, please be mindful of the following:

1. Please create a habit of checking your GT e-mail and Canvas daily. Important class announcements and information will be posted to Canvas, and you want to make sure you're fully equipped for success.
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. If something seems missing or off to you, please reach out to me to discuss.
3. GT 1000 is designed to be informative, helpful, and fun! However, the class is letter-graded and 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, capitalization, and grammatical errors. This practice is also good for creating a habit of professionalism.
4. You can expect that as your GT 1000 instructor, I will come to class each day ready to engage you in learning about Georgia Tech and learning how to be successful academically and professionally. Each session will be structured to encourage your active participation, so please come prepared to participate and contribute to the class.
5. To ensure everyone feels safe, heard, and able to learn in our class, please demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior at all times. This means that you should speak and act in a respectful manner towards your classmates, your Team Leader, and your instructor. To review the Student Code of Conduct, please visit <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-code-conduct>Links to an external site.

Academic Integrity:

GT 1000 is a class based in your own discovery, exploration, and reflection of what you want your time at Tech and professional life to be. Unpacking your thought processes based on information you acquire through campus resources is a major component of the assignments. Therefore, the use of AI is strongly discouraged. If you wish to use AI as part of your brainstorming process, that is fine; however, per the Georgia Tech Honor Code, no work produced via AI should be submitted as your own. If you have questions about what constitutes acceptable use, please see the instructor.

The Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code applies to all work submitted in this course. To review the Honor Code, please visit <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>.

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.