

GT 2000 Transfer Student Seminar Section SC 2

Fall 2026

This seminar course is designed to help you make a successful transition to Georgia Tech from your previous institution 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 Objectives

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.

Instructors, Team Leaders, and Office Hours

Instructor: Lea Marzo

Email: lea.marzo@cos.gatech.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1pm, Tech Tower 2nd floor or by appointment.

Team Leader (TL): Camila Lopez

Email: clopez81@gatech.edu

Major: Biological Sciences

Class Schedule and Location:

Meeting Day & Time: Thursday, 2-2:50 pm

Location: Swann 115

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 Requirements

Technology will be used to deliver content, provide resources, assess learning, and facilitate interaction. Primarily we will be using our course management system, **Canvas**, for offering class-related content and submitting class assignments. **You can access Canvas at <http://gatech.instructure.com>** and you will need to log in with your GT Account information. If you do not have regular access to a

computer, GT computer areas are available on campus, and the library has equipment resources available for check-out (see <https://library.gatech.edu/computingLinks to an external site.>).

Course Assignments

Attendance and Participation (25 points) This class is designed for students to become active, engaged participants, so it's 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'll earn points for your class participation. 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. Each class meeting is worth 2 points.

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'll 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 members of your team will present the project to the class and be asked to answer questions.

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 map and a reflection sheet.**

Career Exploration Project (25 points): This project is designed to help you think critically about your goals, values, and sense of purpose as you begin—or perhaps continue—to consider your plans after Tech. This assignment will ask you to reflect on your goals, think about how your interests and skills align in your major and future career, and take an active step forward in your career readiness plan. **This assignment has two parts: a resume and a reflection essay.**

Course Expectations and Guidelines:

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. 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 accommodations 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.>
3. 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.
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. If something seems missing or off to you, please reach out to me to discuss.
5. GT 2000 is designed to be informative, helpful, and fun! However, the class is graded and does carry one credit towards your degree. For that reason, it is important that all assignments you submit be of high quality. Please double check your work for spelling, capitalization, and grammatical errors. This practice is also good for creating a habit of professionalism.
6. You can expect that as your GT 2000 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.
7. 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. 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.
8. 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 TL, and your instructor. To review the Student Code of Conduct, please visit <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-code-conductLinks to an external site.>

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/valuesLinks 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.

Student Use of Artificial Intelligence

GT 2000 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 me.

Communication

As your professor, I welcome having conversations with you whenever possible. The best ways to reach me are before or after class, in drop-in hours, or by email. When emailing, you usually can expect a response within 24 hours. Communications received Monday through Thursday after 5:00 p.m. generally will be returned the next day. On the weekend or when I'm away from campus, my response may be longer in coming.

When corresponding by email, I will communicate with you using only your GT email account. This is to protect your sensitive personal information, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Please check your email account every day, so that you do not miss important information regarding the class or other key announcements.

Collaboration and Group Work

Our class will often engage in collaborative discussion and activities. You also will participate in a group project. In general, collaborating with your classmates is an encouraged practice. However, other than the Team Project contract and presentation materials, the work you submit under your name should be your own--not that of others or of AI. If you have any questions about what constitutes allowable collaboration, please see me to discuss.

Extensions and Late Assignments

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the assignments, catch up on required material, and complete the work. Exchanging contact information with a classmate or two at the start of the semester can help in case you need to reach out to someone about notes or covered content. If you will be absent for an Institute-approved reason or religious observance, let's discuss in advance a plan for you to keep up with class.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise noted in Canvas and on the syllabus. However, sometimes life can throw you a curve ball, and you could use some extra time to finish up. Assignments can be turned in up to one week after the due date. However, late assignments will earn a 10% grade deduction per day unless an extension has been arranged in advance. If you would like to request an extension, please do so at least a day before the assignment deadline.

Welcome to GT 2000! Let's make the semester a great one.

Important Fall Semester Dates:

Dates to Remember:	
8/24	First day of Classes
8/28	Last day to add/drop classes--by 11:59 PM
9/7	Labor Day (no classes)
10/12	Midterm progress grades due
10/5-6	Fall Break (no classes)
10/31	Withdrawal Deadline
11/25-27	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
12/8	Final Instructional Day

12/10-17	Final Exams (No final exam in GT 2000!)
12/21	Final Grades due by 12 PM

Weekly Schedule

All assignments are due at the beginning of class, unless otherwise stated. All readings are located in our course Canvas site with the appropriate content module.

Schedule subject to change based on class needs. I will keep an updated copy in Canvas and notify you promptly if any adjustments are made.

Attendance and Participation: College of Sciences Events

(Must attend one event from each category for the semester for full credit. Must attend 3 events, extra credit if you attend more than 3.)

- Making Science Accessible Seminars
- C-PIES STEP Events
- CoS Career or Alumni Events

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Thurs 8/27 Week 1	Introduction to GT 2000 and our class community. C-PIES and meet STEP Mentors What do you most want to learn? What are your biggest concerns? What are your goals and hopes for your time at Tech?	Carefully read and review the syllabus and course policies.	Bring in any questions you have about the syllabus and course policies.
Thurs 9/3 Week 2	Intro to the Career Exploration Assignment Resume Best Practices. What is the purpose of a resume, and what are the elements that make a particularly effective one?	Read Career Exploration Assignment Sheet. Recommended: course textbook pp. 31-38 on resumes	• Complete “Freedom of Expression in GT Community.” Canvas). • Complete discussion post on “My Transfer Story” (Canvas).
Thurs 9/10 Week 3	Career Exploration and Networking Cultivating Wellness. Getting familiar with key campus resources for support and success. Exploring the Wellness Wheel.	Recommended: course textbook, pp. 44-52 “Communication and Relational Skills”	• Resume Draft • LinkedIn Profile
Thursday 9/17 Week 4	Guest Instructor: Eliot Griffin Financial Wellness		• Resume final draft due • Submit Wellness Wheel

Thurs 9/24 Week 5	Introduction to the Team Project Taking time management to the next level. Analyzing your weekly schedule and preparing for midterms.		- Complete Career Readiness Exploration and Career Research components of Career Exploration Project. - LinkedIn Profile
Thurs 9/25 Week 6	Setting SMART Goals for personal, academic, and career success. Setting your sights for the short-, medium-, and long term.	Recommended: course textbook pp. 4-8 on academic success at Tech and time management skills *Meet in groups*	Career Exploration Reflection due
Thurs 10/8 Week 7	Getting to Know Your GT Community: History and Traditions. How do we build community together?		Submit your team's scavenger hunt selfies to the Scavenger Hunt assignment dropbox in Canvas.
Thurs 10/15 Week 8	Invention Studio Tour @ 2nd Floor MRDC 801 Ferst Drive Atlanta, GA 30332		Work on Projects and Team Contract due
Thurs 10/22 Week 9	Introduction to the Academic Planning Assignment Charting Your Academic Path and Purpose. Confirming your major interest(s). Examining your degree pathway(s). Identifying enhancing experiences for your time at Tech.	Recommended: course textbook pp. 17-30 on career development and the major-career connection	Start your Academic Planning Projects.
Thurs 10/29 Week 10	No-Class (Participation Flex Day)		Work on Team Projects
Thurs 11/5 Week 11	Major Exploration and Program Plans. Understanding and mapping your pathway to graduation. Effectively using DegreeWorks and teaming with your advisor(s).		Degree Map and Academic Plan Reflection due in assignments dropbox in Canvas.
Thurs 11/12 Week 12	In-class Presentations		Team Presentations due. Please upload any slide decks or materials to the assignment dropbox in Canvas.
Thurs 11/19 Week 13	Guest Lecturer: TBD		
Thurs 11/26 Week 14	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK		

Thus 12/3	In-Class Presentations (Cont.)		Complete 150-200
Week 15	Reflecting on the Future.		word discussion post reflecting on the semester's learning and setting an intention for spring semester.