

Course Syllabus

First-Year Seminar

GT 1000 Section C06
Semester FA 2026

WELCOME TO 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. This class will help you explore general life skills to help you be successful in your time at Georgia Tech and beyond.

Course Learning Objectives

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

Course Policies

Technology:

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

To maintain an optimal learning environment, **the use of phones and laptops is not permitted** during class unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Please ensure that all devices are turned off or set to silent mode and stored away. If you need to use a device for a specific class activity, you will be informed in advance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Academic Integrity Statement:

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>.

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.](#)

Instructor: Houston Freeman

Email: hfreeman38@gatech.edu
Office Hours: [By Appointment](#)
845 Marietta Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Co-Instructor: D. Toussaint

Email: doussaint6@gatech.edu
Office Hours: M-W 8a-330p
845 Marietta Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Team Leader (TL): Kayla Vallere

Email: kvallere3@gatech.edu

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kayla-vallere/>[Links to an external site.](#)

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Class Schedule and Location:

Meeting Day & Time: Tuesday 2p-250p
Location: Swann Building Room 115

Grading:

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

Attendance	10%
Weekly Failures	10%
Events and Activities	10%
Assignments	10%
Team Project	20%
Design Your Academic Plan	20%

Career Exploration Project	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scale

A 100%-90%

B 89%-80%

C 79%-70%

D 69%-60%

F <60%

Required Materials

None

Course Assignments

Attendance: 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 and ready to engage with your peers. To earn full credit for your attendance, you will need to attend all classes and be actively engaged in class discussions and activities.

Team Project: 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.

Design Your Academic Plan: 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 essay.

Career Exploration Project: This project is designed to help you think critically about your goals, values, and sense of purpose as you continue—or perhaps begin—to consider your

plans after Tech. This assignment will ask you to reflect on your goals, start formulating plans to achieve them, and take an active step forward in your career development plan. This assignment has two parts: a resume and a reflection essay.

Events and Activities: Designed to give students credit for participating in campus life activities. This will help them develop peer structures and recognize stress-relief tactics.

Weekly Failures: This activity was created in response to research from the book *The Anxious Generation* to help students see that failures are steps that lead to success. To help students confront the paralysis caused by the fear of being imperfect. To instill in them the desire to try even if failure occurs rather than not try at all.

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 your instructor or team leader 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 Mr. Freeman or Ms. Toussaint ahead of time to discuss any anticipated issues related to disabilities. We are happy to work with you.

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-code>Links to an external site
2. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to participate fully in the course activities or meet course requirement are encouraged to register with the Disability Services Office at 404.894.2564 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>Links to an external site . Please contact one of your instructors 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. 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 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 10 points per day.
8. Appropriate classroom behavior is expected. This means that you should be respectful of your classmates, your TL, and your instructor.