

# Fall 2026 – NEUR 8801 Syllabus

## *Professional Development*

### I. COURSE OVERVIEW

**Lecture (1 credits):** W 11:00 – 11:50 am (in-person course delivery)

**Section:** B

#### Course Description:

This course supports early-stage PhD students in navigating the key milestones of doctoral training within the NSNT program while building the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies needed for long-term career success. Students will develop a clear understanding of program expectations, including exams, mentorship, research development, and dissertation planning, while exploring strategies for effective leadership, collaboration, and professional growth. The course also introduces students to essential campus resources, mentoring opportunities, and professional development networks that support academic success, career exploration, and preparation for diverse career pathways. **PreReq:** *None*

#### Course Goals / Learning Outcomes –

Together in this course we will learn to:

- Identify institutional policies, timelines, resources, and best practices for successfully progressing through a doctoral program.
- Explore career pathways available to neuroscience PhD graduates and assess how individual interests, skills, values, and experiences align with potential academic and non-academic careers.
- Develop and practice effective leadership behaviors, including self-awareness, communication, accountability, collaboration, and constructive feedback.
- Create a personalized career action plan that includes short- and long-term goals, skill development strategies, networking approaches, and concrete next steps.

#### Textbook/Materials:

All course assignments, readings, and grades will be posted/submitted via Canvas. ***You will need to bring some sort of electronic device with access to the internet, paper, and a pencil to class each day.***

## II. COURSE GRADING

| CATEGORY                              | ASSIGNMENT                                       | POINTS |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Career Exploration Portfolio<br>(60%) | Brief Assignments/ Reflections                   | 60 pts |
| Engagement (40%)                      | Participation in Course Discussions & Activities | 40 pts |

### Grading Scale:

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

|   |              |                 |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| A | 90 – 100 %   | 90.0+ pts       |
| B | 80 – 89.99 % | 80.0 – 89.9 pts |
| C | 70 – 79.99 % | 70.0 – 79.9 pts |
| D | 60 – 69.99 % | 60.0 – 69.9 pts |
| F | 0 – 59.99 %  | < 60.0 pts      |

## III. COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

### Academic Honesty/Integrity

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic honor code: <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. After you have received your accommodation letter you are welcome to email me to set up a private appointment to discuss how I can best implement these accommodations within the course.

### Statement About Acceptable Student Conduct

To support mutual respect and understanding between students and faculty, Georgia Tech faculty and students collectively adopted a list of student-faculty expectations. See the full Student-Faculty Expectations agreement here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>

### Extensions & Late Assignments:

All assignments are due at **11:59 p.m. on Canvas** and are considered late at 12:00 a.m. Assignments will have a 10% late penalty applied for each 24 hours that it is late. In general, all due dates are final without prior instructor approval. However, I'm happy to be flexible and work with you if there are extenuating circumstances.

## Attendance

Please do not feel pressured to attend class in-person if you experience any symptoms of any illness. Your health is personal, and you do not need to inform your instructor about missing class unless you will be missing more than 1 class day.

## Modified Campus Operations / Digital Learning Days:

In the event of incremental weather or other reasons for campus shutdown, students should expect to move to a virtual class session at the regularly scheduled class time, unless otherwise specified via Canvas Announcement. Depending on the day(s) that campus is closed we may choose to hold class via Zoom or assign an alternative assignment for students to work on (replacing in-class discussion).

## V. RESOURCES

### Campus Resources:

Georgia Tech offers a wide range of campus resources to help students academically and personally. [Click here for a list of relevant resources](#).

### Help With Writing/Presentations:

- The [CommLab](#)

### When in Doubt Contact:

The [Dean of Students Office](#) can connect you with specific resources if you are still unsure of where to go for help. The request assistance form is helpful for sharing documentation from Stamps with your professors among other things.