CS 2803 PSC Syllabus

Leaders in Progress and Service in Computing, 3.0 credits

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Klaus Room 2456

Fall 2026

This course is a great fit for undergraduate computing students across any year, including first years. The class will consist of reading, writing, and coding in the language Processing. Some prior coding experience would help, but is not necessary, and prior coding experience in Processing is not expected.

This is the official syllabus for CS 2803 LPC. There are no pre-requisites. There is one required text, the book *Designing Your Life* by Bill Burnett & Dale Evans, and you will need to purchase a physical notebook of your choice. Attendance is not strictly mandatory but will be given participation points based on in-class work. Attendance at the final exam session is required.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Nathaniel Swinger and Rodrigo Borela Valente

Email: nswinger3@gatech.edu and rborelav@gatech.edu

Office Hours: TBD (will be posted on Canvas)

General Course Information

Description

What is “Progress and Service” and how does Georgia Tech prepare leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition? In this course, you will explore the nature of complex problems within computing that impact humanity while investigating your own unique potential to impact these problems. Through interactions with faculty, peers, and community leaders, you will learn to tackle complex problems from multiple perspectives, equipping you with greater insight into the roles and actions that enable leaders to make change. You’ll also use tools of reflection to begin developing your own unique identity as a professional, and begin to make connections between you, your role as a professional, and the impact you have on society.

Pre- or Co- Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have the foundational ability to:

- Integrate multiple perspectives in defining complex problems
- Reflect on their identity development as professionals
- Describe how their actions as professionals impact society

Required Course Materials

1. *Designing Your Life* by Bill Burnett & Dale Evans
2. A notebook of your choice (at least 4-inch x 6-inch and at least 100 pages)

Grading Policy

Your grade in the course will consist of the following elements:

1. Participation: In-Class Journals + Short Quizzes (300 points, 30%)
2. Project 1: Professional Identity (300 points, 30%)
3. Project 2: Informational Interview (100 points, 10%)
4. Project 3: Complex Problems Group Project (300 points, 30%)

Point total 1000, and each of the above is split into multiple parts with their own due dates.

Description of Graded Components

In-Class Participation Journals

In class, you will have time to write reflective journal entries. These will be individual assignments, kept in your own notebook, and uploaded to Canvas. Collaboration with others on these assignments is not allowed, and therefore all submitted work must be your own. These will be graded for completion as the majority of your participation grade.

In-Class Participation Quizzes

In class, you may also be asked on occasion to complete a brief quiz to help check your understanding of an important concept. These quizzes will be graded for completion as a small part of your participation grade. You will be allowed to work with others around you on these quizzes. However, everyone must make their own submission to receive credit. Collaboration must abide by the academic integrity policy.

Project 1: Professional Identity

This will be an individual project used to explore what it means to you to be a professional in your chosen field. Collaboration with others on portions of the assignment is not allowed, and therefore all submitted work must be your own. Some portions will be completed in class, but most will be done as homework. The culmination of the project will be an interactive creative coding project in Processing. This will be graded using a rubric.

Project 2: Informational Interview

This will be an individual project to speak to both a human and a GenAI about a future career you are interested in. Some portions will be completed in class, but most will be done as homework. Collaboration with others on portions of the assignment is not allowed, and therefore all submitted work must be your own. The culmination of the project will be a reflection on what you learned in career-focused informational interviews with GenAI and a human. This will be graded using a rubric.

Project 3: Complex Problems Group Project

This will be a group project to explore a complex societal problem related to computing. Some portions will be completed in class, but most will be done as homework. Groups will need to meet outside of class time. Collaboration must abide by the academic integrity policy, and collaboration with others outside of your group is not allowed. The culmination of the group project will be a report and an interactive creative coding project in Processing. After, there will be an individual reflection (no collaboration allowed), written and submitted during the final exam period in person. All parts will be graded using a rubric.

Grading Scale

You have the opportunity to earn up to 1000 points over the course of the semester. Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	900-1000 points
B	800-899 points
C	700-799 points
D	600-699 points
F	0-599 points

Final grades are calculated to the nearest whole point. We will not be rounding up final grades.

Late and Missed Work Policy

- All in-class work must be completed and submitted during the class period in which it is assigned, including reflective journals.
- Individual homework assignments have a 12-hour grace period with no penalty. After this grace period ends, assignments will lose 10% per 24 hours late after the original deadline.
    - Example 1: If an assignment is due at 11:59pm on 10/15, a submission by 11:59am on 10/16 will receive no penalty.
    - Example 2: If an assignment is due at 11:59pm on 10/15, a submission at 3pm on 10/16 would receive a 10% penalty. If the original assignment grade was a 92%, you would receive an 82%.
    - Example 3: If an assignment is due at 11:59pm on 10/15, a submission at 11:59pm on 10/17 would receive a 20% penalty. If the original assignment grade was an 88%, you would receive a 68%.
- Group assignments have a 12-hour grace period with no penalty. Group assignments will not be accepted after the grace period.
- Any assignments that are not submitted will receive a grade of 0.
- If you are sick or there is an urgent situation and you believe you will need an extension, please contact the instructors as soon as possible. Please be prepared to submit official documentation to the Dean of Students.

AI Collaboration Policy

This course uses an assignment-by-assignment AI policy. In some cases, you will be asked to use GenAI and copy or submit text directly from the AI. In other cases, you will be given more specific guidance. In others, AI use will be prohibited. If there is no policy for a given document, you should assume AI use is prohibited. If you are unsure about the policy in a specific case, consult your instructor before using GenAI.

Attendance and/or Participation

Given the small size, class meeting schedule, and interactive nature of this class, attendance is generally expected at each class meeting. Participation will be graded based on in-class journal entries and short in-class quizzes. These will all be graded for completion.

You will be able to miss some class sessions without penalty, but some sessions will include in-class portions of major projects or in-class group project work time. **Please note that lectures will not be recorded.** Please reach out early via email if you need to miss any class sessions, and as soon as possible if you are sick or have an emergency. Please be prepared to submit official documentation to the Dean of Students.

Georgia Tech's official attendance policy can be found at https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/ . In addition to the GT rules, it states "All students are responsible for obtaining an understanding of each instructor's policy regarding absences." Information about how to notify instructors when you need to miss class and what kind of documentation you should provide is at: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/ .

Communicating with Instructors and TAs

Communication with the course teaching team should be handled via email and the discussion forum. If your question is relevant to the entire class, you should ask it publicly on the discussion forum; if your question is specific to you, such as a question about your specific grade or submission, you should ask it privately or send an email.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail the teaching team as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of your teaching team and that we have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities may or may not be provided at the discretion of the instructor. Any extra credit opportunities that are provided will be made available to all students in the class.

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources

Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.