

Robotics Capstone Project

Course Information

- **Instructor:** James Hays
- **Course Prefix and Number:** CS/AE/ECE/ME/BME/PHYS 8741
- **Term:** Spring 2027

Course Description

This course provides academic credit for the MS Robotics capstone project, completed under the direction of a faculty advisor in one of the Robotics home units. Students complete a 6-credit project over two semesters, typically in the second year of the program. The scope and direction of the project are determined by the student (or group of 2–3 students) in consultation with the faculty advisor and, when feasible, the student's internship supervisor.

Course Learning Outcome

By enrolling in this course, students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program by critically assessing the prior art in an area outside their own, performing state-of-the-art experimental or simulation work in a multidisciplinary area, and coherently reporting, at the level of a conference publication, on the research performed.

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Resources for research are determined in consultation with the instructor.

Grading Policy

This course is graded on a letter grade basis.

The grade will be assigned based on agreed upon objectives commensurate with the difficulty and scope of the project, the number of credit hours, as well as the technical proficiency of the student. Deliverables include (but are not limited to) a mid-point presentation, a final written report, and a completion presentation, which will be reviewed by the faculty advisor and, when possible, a partner company collaborator. It is the joint responsibility of the instructor and the student to discuss expectations and how meeting or not the expectations affects the final grade. The grading process will be clearly articulated to the student to allow reasonable prediction progress towards the final grade throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. The frequency and format of student–faculty contact are determined by mutual agreement and are consistent with the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

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 the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Honor Code](#), especially [Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code](#).

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All Doctoral and Master's Thesis students are required to take the [Responsible Conduct of Research training](#), and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing 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.

Allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined by the [Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific or Other Scholarly Misconduct](#).

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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

Student-Faculty Expectations

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](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Additional information for research-related work is given in [The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#). 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.