VIP Proj. Team Syllabus

Birds in Arts and Media Section VWX, 1, 2, 3 Credits

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Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

This VIP explores representations of animals and human-animal dynamics in literature, film, visual arts, and performances, analyzing their societal and environmental significance. The VIP Birds in Arts and Media Team focuses on the multifaceted presence of birds in French and Francophone arts and media across different periods, engaging students in hands-on projects that contribute to the study of birds in arts and media.

Students in this VIP will have the opportunity to work on two distinct but interconnected projects:

1. Developing and updating a comprehensive website to support Plumage, a bird-focused magazine. This platform will serve as a hub for resources and interdisciplinary exploration, bringing together art, science, and the humanities to address pressing environmental challenges. https://plumage.vip.gatech.edu/
2. Creating an issue of Plumage, featuring French and Francophone literature, arts, media, interviews, photo essays, scholarly articles, and creative works. The magazine will use artistic expression to raise awareness and foster critical discussions on issues related to birds.

Conducted in English.

Course Learning Outcomes

This VIP emphasizes professional and analytical skills, preparing students to engage with environmental and cultural issues through digital and creative projects.
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
For digital production:

1. Learn and practice professional skills;
2. Plan and build a content-managed website: information architecture, navigation, content modeling, responsive layout
3. Use analytics and reader feedback to judge whether something is working

For Editorial and communication

4. Learn about artistic interpretations of birds in French culture and society and in arts and media in general.
5. Learn about environmental humanities, and animal studies.
6. Find and evaluate sources across archives, databases, and scientific literature, in French and/or English, and cite them correctly.

Working with other people

7. Make substantial contributions to the team project;
8. Experience different roles on a large, multidisciplinary team.

Required Course Materials

N/A

Grading Policy:

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

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

According to policy, grades at Georgia Tech are interpreted as follows:

A	Excellent (4 quality points per credit hour)
B	Good (3 quality points per credit hour)
C	Satisfactory (2 quality points per credit hour)
D	Passing (1 quality point per credit hour)
F	Failure (0 quality points per credit hour)

See http://registrar.gatech.edu/info/grading-system for more information about the grading system at Georgia Tech.

VIP teams function like real-world project teams. Members work on different aspects of a shared project, ranging from sophomores to graduate students, and from first-time participants to those with multiple semesters of experience. Students may enroll for variable credit hours, which are considered in grading.
Note: Zero-credit enrollment is reserved for paid participants and follows the same grading criteria.

Grading Overview

Each student is evaluated across three core areas, with three mandatory requirements. Regardless of role or experience, students must demonstrate achievement in all three areas:

1. **Documentation and Records (33%)**

- Maintain individual documentation (required).
- Contribute to team documentation: VIP Wiki, blog

2. **Personal Contributions (33%)**

- Complete assigned quizzes, modules, essays, or reports.
- Engage actively in the project.
- Pursue knowledge relevant to the project.
- Contribute to technical progress.
- Experienced members may also contribute to project management.

3. **Teamwork and Interaction (33%)**

- Participate in peer evaluations. Failure to submit results in a full letter grade deduction.
- Attend meetings on time.
- Collaborate toward team goals.
- Coordinate and assist teammates.
- Contribute to team presentations.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required and constitutes a significant component of your final grade. Attendance will be recorded in Canvas at each class meeting.
You are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled class sessions (Mondays)
- Arrive on time and remain for the full duration of the class
- Come prepared, having completed all assigned tasks
- Participate actively in class discussions and activities

Absences, late arrivals, early departures, and repeated disruptions (e.g., leaving the room during class) will negatively affect your attendance and participation grade.

Absences

You are expected to attend all classes unless you have a documented, excused absence (e.g., illness, official university activity, or other serious circumstances; See: Institute-Approved Absences section). In case of absence, you are responsible for all material covered. You should contact a classmate to obtain notes and stay up to date. Absences do not exempt you from completing assignments or meeting deadlines unless otherwise arranged.

Participation

Participation is a central component of this course and of your learning experience. Active participation includes: contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, asking questions and offering interpretations, demonstrating preparation and attentiveness. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers; what matters is being engaged with the class and class material. Please silence and put away cell phones during class.

Regular attendance combined with consistent, thoughtful participation will result in a strong grade in this category.

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 me 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 me and that I 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.

Institute-Approved Absences

As per Georgia Tech policy, you are permitted to be absent from class to participate in athletic events, official field trips, and religious observances. For planning purposes, please provide me with written notice of your upcoming absence at least two weeks before the event, and ideally within the first two weeks of class. When I receive this notice, you and I will discuss opportunities to make up

work you will miss in your absence. Please see http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/ for more information about receiving official notice from the Registrar about the nature and timing of your upcoming Institute-approved absence.

Excused Absences and Student Responsibilities : In the event of a medical emergency or an illness that is severe enough to require medical attention, students are responsible for contacting the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible to report the medical issue or emergency, providing dated documentation from a medical professional and requesting assistance in notifying their instructors. I will honor any request from the Office of the Dean of Students to excuse a medical emergency or illness and allow make-up of the work missed, including homework, quizzes, presentations, examinations, or other class assignments.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

This is an advanced-level course conducted entirely in French. Students are expected to have sufficient proficiency to:

- follow lectures and discussions in French
- read and analyze texts and media in French
- participate actively in spoken and written French

Students at the beginner level should enroll in a course appropriate to their current proficiency. No prior background or specialized knowledge of the course topics is required.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Collaboration and Group Work

This class includes group work and designated group projects, for which all members will receive the same grade unless otherwise specified. All work submitted for individual credit must be written in your own words.

Use of Generative AI

The use of generative AI tools—such as ChatGPT or similar systems—is permitted for completing assignments in this course regarding maintenance of the website.

Permitted:

- Help for coding
- Brainstorming or exploring general questions
- Clarifying concepts in a preliminary, exploratory way

Not permitted:

- Generating content for the magazine
- Writing, translating, or editing the magazine
- Producing ideas, arguments, or analyses that you submit as your own

However, all submitted work for the Plumage magazine must reflect your own thinking, writing, and language production. Any use of AI-generated content without proper acknowledgment constitutes a violation of course policy.

Guidelines for Maintaining Academic Integrity

To ensure that your work remains your own, follow these guidelines:

- Do not copy or paste text from AI tools into your assignments

- Do not compose your work alongside or within AI-assisted writing environments
- Do not rely on AI tools for phrasing, translation, or sentence construction

As a general rule: if a tool contributes directly to the wording or structure of your submission, it should not be used.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

As a general rule, extensions, late assignments, and rescheduled exams are not permitted. Exceptions will be granted only in cases of documented Institute-Approved Absences (See: Institute-Approved Absences).

Missed exams or assignments will receive a grade of F (0) unless covered by an approved, documented absence.

Assignments must be submitted on Canvas by the specified deadline. Assignments submitted after the deadline without prior approval will be penalized by one full letter grade per day (e.g., A → B → C). Assignments submitted more than 48 hours late may not be accepted. If you miss a class, you are still expected to submit any assigned work by the original deadline indicated on Canvas. Submitting work later on the same day may result in a penalty. Failure to submit on the assigned date will result in a grade reduction as outlined above.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

Institute leadership will determine specific plans in case closing of campus is necessary, working to maximize the educational experience and success of the students while allowing some flexibility for faculty members to respond in a manner consistent with their course format and teaching style. Should it become necessary for the Institute to modify campus operations for one (1) to two (2) days, it is the expectation that, where possible, courses will continue as scheduled via digital delivery. However, instructors have the option to cancel classes with a plan for make-up instruction once campus has reopened. For courses typically taught in person, Digital Learning Day is a day of instruction leveraging online delivery (either synchronous or asynchronous) due to the modification of campus operations.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

To support a focused and engaged learning environment, the use of mobile devices in this class is strictly limited.

General Policy: Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class. Texting, emailing, web browsing, or engaging in non-class-related activities is not permitted. Laptops should not be used unless explicitly required for a class activity.

Note-Taking: Students are expected to take notes using a notebook (preferred), or a tablet with a stylus

This policy is designed to enhance your learning experience and that of your classmates. Research on learning shows that unexpected noises and movement automatically divert and capture people's attention, which means that one student's use of a mobile devices (laptops, cell phones, tablets, etc.) can distract another student, thus disrupting their ability to learn. In addition, students using mobile devices often become engaged in matters that are not related to the class

they are attending. Further, research indicates that students taking notes on laptops tend to process less as they take notes, and the depth of their learning suffers.
Expectations: You are encouraged to remain fully present during class discussions, engage actively with course content and your peers, and contribute to a respectful and distraction-free classroom environment.

Additional Course Policies

- **Food and drink in the classroom**: Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted during class sessions.
- **Freedom of expression and guidelines for discussion**: You are encouraged to share your perspectives, experiences, and interpretations in relation to course topics. At the same time, our goal is to engage in critical, thoughtful, and respectful discussion. All participants are expected to: listen actively and respectfully to others, engage with differing viewpoints in a constructive manner, and contribute to an inclusive and intellectually rigorous environment.
- **Recording class activities**: In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and a safe environment to express opinions, recording of any kind is not permitted without prior instructor approval. This includes: audio recordings, video recordings, use of wearable or smart recording devices. Students are encouraged to take notes instead.
- **Wearable and Recording Devices:** The use of wearable recording technologies (e.g., smart glasses such as Meta Glasses) is not permitted in the classroom.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

Academic Support: 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.

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources:

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education website. Specific information for current graduate students includes

- Academic Resources such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;
- Student Resources such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and

- Professional Development such as the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events"

Other useful resources

- **Student Assistance Services**: The Office of the Dean of Students provides a number of services to assist students with medical and personal emergencies. To access these services during regular business hours, students and/or their families may notify the office at (404) 894-2565. In the event of an after-hours emergency, individuals should contact the Georgia Tech Police Department at (404) 894-2500 and request that the "Dean on Call" be contacted. There is an emergency "Dean on Call" at all times to assist students in need.
- **Center for Mental Health Care & Resources**: https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/ ; Crisis services: If you're experiencing significant mental health difficulties and need immediate support, their staff is available during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 404.894.2575 or visit them in Suite 238, Smithgall Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Dr NW, Atlanta, GA 30313.
- **Belonging & Student Support**: https://support.belonging.gatech.edu/
- **Stamps Health Services**: https://health.gatech.edu ; 404-894-1420
- **Veteran's Resource Center**: http://veterans.gatech.edu/ 404-385-2067
- **Georgia Tech Police**:404-894-2500.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. This course recognizes that academic success is closely connected to your health and well-being. If you are experiencing challenges that may affect your ability to succeed in this course, you are encouraged to reach out for support. You may contact me to discuss possible accommodations or adjustments, and I will do my best to help within the framework of course policies. Georgia Tech offers a wide range of resources to support students, including counseling services, health services, and wellness programs. 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 (student-resource-guide (gatech.edu). Seeking support is a sign of strength and an important step toward maintaining balance and success during the semester.