

Course Syllabus

S8001 Syllabus

Computational Sociology Seminar

Synchronous Meetings is subject to change, Microsoft Teams

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours & Location
Dr. Ana Rusch	ARusch3@gatech.edu	Office Hours by Appointment
Instructor	Email	Office Hours & Location
Dr. David Joyner	david.joyner@gatech.edu	Office Hours by Appointment
TA	Email	Office Hours & Location
Sayli Uttarwar	suttarwar6@gatech.edu	Office Hours by Appointment
TA	Email	Office Hours & Location
Leo Wilson	lwilson45@gatech.edu	Office Hours by Appointment

General Information

Description

This seminar will explore Computational Sociology, a sub-field of both Computer Science and Sociology. As part of this, students will participate in discussions, read case studies and papers, and have the opportunity to propose and get feedback on their own research ideas and progress. This seminar will be divided into three main sections. The first section will review case studies of how computer science, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, have been used to analyze and solve complex social problems. These case studies will analyze computer science through a multidimensional sociological perspective. The second section of this seminar will review the

sociohistorical history and ethics of computer science. Finally, the third section of this seminar will give students a space to discuss their own research ideas, practice conference presentations, and receive feedback on papers for submission. Grading will be based on participation, either synchronous or asynchronous. The synchronous meeting times/dates will be determined based on most of the students' availability. Asynchronous participation via will be conducted via Ed Discussion.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate how computer science and sociology are intricately related such as how computers affect social processes and society as well as how individuals within society develop computational systems through a social lens.
2. Examine computer science and tech through culturally relevant and sociohistorical lens and apply them to current research.
3. Cultivate academic and professional development through peer review and feedback.

Course Requirements & Grading:

This seminar is a Pass/Fail fully online modality that centers on engagement, collaboration, and peer review. This seminar aims to enrich learning through engagement, inspire innovation and research ideas through collaboration, and create networks of peer support through peer review and feedback. Grading will be passed on overall class participation, with the expectation that everyone will pass unless some choose to stay unengaged altogether. Within this pedagogical framework, here's what participating in the class will entail:

- **Weekly Participation:** The mode of participation is entirely up to you. Every person is a different type of learner and to ensure maximum accessibility, there are different mode of participation. You can participate in either our weekly synchronous meetings via Teams and/or in the Ed Discussion forums where I will post a question or topic to discuss every week based on that week's article, topic, or video (all are available for free through Georgia Tech Library).
- **Research and Dialogue Facilitator:** You are more than welcome to facilitate and lead a dialogue on in either one of our weekly Teams meetings (please email me what time and day you would like to lead this discussion) or through Ed Discussions where you can post a new thread and facilitate the discussion and comments on it. This dialogue could be anything from a current event that interested you to an idea on research or a conference presentation you want to think through. The bounds of this are limited only by your imagination. Think of this seminar as your platform to exchange ideas with your peers and have your voice heard in a safe space of intellectual growth.
- **Peer Review/Reflection:** Peer review is the cornerstone of educational collaboration and a way to engage the subject at hand through the lens of your peers. The main point of this peer review is not to "criticize" or "grade" but to help grow and support your peers through your replies and engagement.

Grading Scale

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

Pass or Fail: Grading will be passed on overall class participation, with the expectation that everyone will pass unless some choose to stay unengaged altogether.

Course Materials

Course Text

I will be adding new material each week which are all available for free through the Georgia Tech online library.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/> (**Links to an external site.**) .

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.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> (**Links to an external site.**) , 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.

Participation

To gain the full course and learning experience, participation is vital. Whether that is through our weekly synchronous meetings or through Ed Discussions, participation and peer support is the key to success in this seminar.

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. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> (**Links to an external site.**) for an articulation of some basic expectation 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.

Accommodations for Religious Observances

I respect your right to observe your religion and will do what I can to accommodate your needs. With this in mind, you are permitted to be absent from class to take part in religious observances. For planning purposes, I ask that you provide me with written notice of your upcoming absence within the first two weeks of class. For more information on Georgia Tech's policy regarding student rights and responsibilities around planned absences from class, please see <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/> (**Links to an external site.**) .

Freedom of Expression and Guidelines for Discussion

I respect your right to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. I am also committed to maintaining an orderly learning environment for all students and ensuring that all facilities are used in a way that facilitates teaching, learning, and research. Therefore, I encourage you to voice your opinions respectfully, as long as they are related to the content of this class and as long as doing so does not infringe unduly on the rights of other. You are also encouraged to share personal experiences and

opinions with respect to the topics covered in this class as this is a safe space of learning. In an environment of mutual respect we should be able to engage in well-rounded and constructive discussion that is beneficial to all of us.

Recording Classroom Activities

In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and a safe environment to express opinions, recording of our classes using digital, tape, or audio devices is not allowed. You are welcome (and even encouraged) to take notes and photos of the board. This policy can be waived for students with accommodations upon explicit recommendation from the Office of Disability Services.