

Polymer Communications Syllabus

MSE 6775 - 1 credit hour (can be retaken 3 times for credit)

Friday 11:00AM - 11:50AM, Clough Commons 325

Instructor Information

Instructor
Dr. Will Gutekunst
Office: MoSE 1100Q

Email
willgute@gatech.edu

Office Hours & Location
By email request

General Information

Description

Polymer science and engineering is an interdisciplinary subject. It requires students to acquire and practice the use of physics, math, engineering and chemistry. This course will lead students to solidify their knowledge of polymer science and engineering by offering them a platform to discuss literature results and their own results. They will learn and practice visual and oral delivery. Audience participation will encourage critical thinking in a supportive environment. Optional in-person small group discussions will be arranged.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

Suggested: MSE 8200, Advanced Presentation Skills

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Listen attentively
2. Assess the meaning of plots and graphs quickly, even in unusual formats.
3. Think critically.
4. Formulate questions in a helpful and constructive fashion that promotes learning for others.
5. Communicate effectively in seminar style.
6. Communicate effectively in classroom lecture style.

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Percentage
Students giving 10-minute talks	Individually Scheduled	30% Talk + 70% Participation in other talks
Students giving 40-minute talks	Individually Scheduled	70% Talk + 30% Participation in other talks

Description of Graded Components

Ten-minute talk: *Students early in their graduate careers* will be asked to give a 10-minute “chalk-talk” (in the parlance of a bygone era where chalk was used). It will often be a short description of an article from the literature. It may also be a practice talk for an upcoming scientific meeting or interview. Students will be graded on statement of problem, rational explanation, quality of diagrams/drawings/plots, organization and diction.

Forty-minute talk: *Experienced students* will be slated to give a 40-minute talk, leaving 10 minutes for discussion. These presentations will typically be based on literature or research. Either way, the speaker will be charged with presentation of a problem, providing related background information at a level suitable for beginners, providing advanced information at a level for experts, summarizing, and providing a philosophical perspective on the work.

Grading Scale

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	60-59%
F	0-59%

Course Materials

Course Text

None.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

Canvas will be used for content delivery and communication

Bluejeans will be used for course participation in the event a student cannot be present in person

Course Expectations & Guidelines

1. Students will attend and participate.
2. If a talk must be re-scheduled, it is up to the speaker to find a replacement.
3. Critique will remain rational, objective and constructive.
4. Appropriate attribution will be given to resources shown during presentations.

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/>. 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/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter.

Course Schedule

The course will consist of student presentations, guest presentations and the schedule will be prepared during the first few weeks of class.

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/> 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.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

The use of mobile devices in the classroom is restricted to queries related to the topic being presented and discussed. For example, it is appropriate to use the internet to remind oneself of the Phase Rule, but answering email or texting your friends is discouraged.

Food and Drink in the Classroom

While COVID-19 remains a presence in our community, eating in class is discouraged.

Resources for Students

In your time at Georgia Tech, you may find yourself in need of support. Below you will find some resources to support you both as a student and as a person.

Academic support

- Center for Academic Success <http://success.gatech.edu>
 - 1-to-1 tutoring <http://success.gatech.edu/1-1-tutoring>
 - Peer-Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) <http://success.gatech.edu/tutoring/plus>
 - Academic coaching <http://success.gatech.edu/coaching>
- OMED: Educational Services (<http://omed.gatech.edu/programs/academic-support>)
 - Group study sessions and tutoring programs
- Communication Center (<http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu>)
 - Individualized help with writing and multimedia projects
- Academic advisors for your major
<http://advising.gatech.edu/>

Personal Support

Georgia Tech Resources

- The Office of the Dean of Students: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/get-help-now>; **404-894-6367**; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor
 - You also may request assistance at https://gatech-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid383662?
- Center for Assessment, Referral and Education (CARE) **404-894-3498**; <https://care.gatech.edu/>
 - Smithgall Student Services Building 1st floor
 - Students seeking assistance from the Counseling Center or Stamps Psychiatry need to visit CARE first for a primary assessment and referral to on and off campus mental health and well-being resources.

- *Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-4pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2575 or 404-894-3498. Other crisis resources: <https://counseling.gatech.edu/content/students-crisis>*
- Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR): <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/star-services>
 - Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs.
- Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu>; 404-894-1420
 - Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition
- OMED: Educational Services: <http://www.omed.gatech.edu>
- Women's Resource Center: <http://www.womenscenter.gatech.edu>; 404-385-0230
- LGBTQIA Resource Center: <http://lgbtqia.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2679
- Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2067
- Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500; <http://www.police.gatech.edu>

National Resources

- The [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) | 1-800-273-8255
 - Free and confidential support 24/7 to those in suicidal or emotional distress
- The [Trevor Project](#)
 - Crisis intervention and suicide prevention support to members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends
 - Telephone | 1-866-488-7386 | 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - [Online chat](#) | 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - Text message | Text "START" to 687687 | 24hrs day, 7 days a week

Statement of Intent for Inclusivity

As a member of the Georgia Tech community, I am committed to creating a learning environment in which all of my students feel safe and included. Because we are individuals with varying needs, I am reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, I invite you to enter into dialogue with me about the things I can stop, start, and continue doing to make my classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.