

SYLLABUS

Polymer Communications

Friday, 11-11:50 AM, EST L1118

(Section 2: 1-0-1, can be retaken 3 times for credit)

Instructor Information

Instructor
Natalie Stingelin

Email
natalie.stingelin@mse.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 8001, Advanced Presentation Skills (a new number for this course is pending, likely 8200).

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	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
Students giving 10-minute talks	Individually Scheduled	<u>30%</u> Talk+ 70% Participation in other talks
Students giving 40-minute talks	Individually Scheduled	70% Talk + 30% Participation in other talks

Extra Credit Opportunities

None

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.

In addition, two panel discussions will be held on topics chosen by the class. This will be a group assignment, with half of the class being the panel, the other half the audience leading the Q&A

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- 69%
F	0- 59%

Tentative Schedule (to be finalized on January 13/20)

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Moderator	
13-Jan	Intro // discussion of schedule	Marlow Durbin / Prof Stingelin	N/A	*
20-Jan	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	*
27-Jan	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
3-Feb	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
10-Feb	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
17-Feb	Panel I			
24-Feb	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	*
3-Mar	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
10-Mar	Place holder: Industry Speaker			**
17-Mar	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
24-Mar	No class			
31-Mar	Student presentations	TBA	TBA	
7-Apr	Likely: SPN Day			
14-Apr	Panel II // followed by lunch at Cypress			
21-Apr	No class: Little Online Quiz / Povid Feedback / Reflections on panels via Canvas			*

*Led by Marlow Durbin, Natalie Stingelin online // *Natalie Stingelin not present

Course Materials

Course Text

None.

Additional Materials/Resources

Topics and communications as selected from the literature.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

Canvas will be used for content delivery and communication

Office 365 Excel online will be used for sign-up and scheduling

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/>.

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. 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. 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.

[Campus Resources for Students \(clickable link\)](#)

Help Create Resistance to Sexual Harassment <https://www.mse.gatech.edu/values/crsh>

MSE is committed to a community that actively resists sexual and gender harassment. If you see or experience any of the following: sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, resources are available:

- Confidential VOICE Advocates can provide support 24/7 and explore resources and options, some of which are time sensitive. Call GTPD dispatcher at 404-894-2500 and ask to speak to the On-Call VOICE Advocate. You do not need to make a report or provide any information other than your phone number for a VOICE advocate to contact you.
- Sexual violence or harassment can be reported directly to Georgia Tech's Title IX Coordinator, Marcia Bull Staderker, (404) 385-5583, marcia.staderker@gatech.edu.

Faculty, Staff and TAs are mandatory reporters and are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.