

Mobile And Ubiquitous Computing (MUC)

Georgia Tech: CS4605 & CS7470

Syllabus

January 7, 2019

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This document describes the general guidelines for and an overview of the MUC class at Georgia Tech. Use this as a reference throughout the semester. Mentors, TAs, and instructors will assist you in case there are any questions or concerns.

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1. General Course Information

Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing are often referred to as the third generation of computing where users continuously interact not with just one but many computing devices. The latter are thereby embedded into the everyday environment of their users in such a way that users—ultimately—will not even be aware of their interaction with computers. In this class students will explore the third generation of computing (and beyond) that enables such continuous and especially ubiquitous computing. Students will learn about the technical foundations of sensing, computing, and communication that are the pre-requisite for smooth and seamless interactions in a continuous manner. Based on these foundations students will work on practical projects that address cutting edge real world problems and will develop innovative solutions to it through means of mobile and ubiquitous computing. Beyond providing a solid technical foundation for mobile and ubiquitous computing the course will focus on aspects of how to actually make, that is build and deploy, mobile and ubiquitous computing systems.

1.1. Prerequisites

1.1.1. Formal Prerequisites

Undergraduate Semester level CS 2110 Minimum Grade of C or Undergraduate Semester level CS 2261 Minimum Grade of C.

Mandatory Requirement:

Before students start working on their projects they will need to provide documentation regarding successful completion of CITI IRB Training — specifically the following courses need to be completed (or refreshed):

- Responsible Conduct of Research (1 — Basic Course)
- Human Research (Group 2 Social / Behavioral Investigators and Key Personnel — 1 Basic Course)

Students will have three weeks (at the beginning of the semester) to complete the IRB training and submit their certificates (PDF) through Canvas (see below).

The CITI IRB online training can be accessed through: <http://researchintegrity.gatech.edu/about-irb/irb-required-training> and should not take longer than two hours to complete. Students who already have valid, that is not expired, certificates for the aforementioned courses can submit their certificates directly.

Important: Without valid CITI certification students cannot work on their projects and as such will not be able to fulfill the requirements of all project-related assignments!

1.1.2. Recommendations

Students shall have a general interest in the subject area of mobile, ubiquitous, pervasive, and wearable computing. Curiosity and eagerness to not only learn about (and understand) the field of mobile and ubiquitous computing, but also to *make* and experiment in practical, hands-on sessions are of benefit for enjoying the course.

Existing programming skills are of benefit (for mobile platforms, and/or for lower level device control; for web platforms). For some projects experience with data analysis frameworks such as Python, R, or Matlab is of benefit. Other projects will build on foundations of electrical engineering and manufacturing.

1.2. Time and Location

9:30am — 10:45am Tuesdays and Thursdays in “Scheller 200” (College of Business)

1.3. Final Schedule, and Assignment etc. Details

The schedule and course details related to assignments, quizzes, deliverables etc. are correct as of the time of writing of this syllabus. Minor adjustments may become necessary once enrollment details are settled. **Please refer to the official schedule and details as communicated through Canvas!**

1.4. Queries Related to Course

Please send your queries related to course work through Canvas — Discussion section. That way your request will be visible to all and everyone will benefit from the response from the TAs / instructor and potential follow-up conversations. In case you do not want to discuss matters publicly please send direct messages to the TAs and the instructor.

Important: Please use only Canvas for communication and always CC all TAs and the instructor. That way we make sure your messages will not get lost in spam folders etc. **We will not respond to email messages.**

1.5. Instructors

1.5.1. Professor

Dr Thomas Ploetz
Associate Professor
School of Interactive Computing
thomas.ploetz@gatech.edu

office:

Tech Square Research Building (TSRB), Second Floor, Room 234c (NW corner office facing interstate and parking garage)

office hours:

Wednesday, 3pm — 4pm

NO office hours during weeks commencing 02/18/19 and 04/01/19!

Guest lectures will be given by Profs. Sauvik Das and Gregory Abowd, as well as by other invited guests.

1.5.1. Teaching Assistants (TAs)

Yuhui Zhao
yzhao343@gatech.edu

Nivedita Arora
nivedita.arora@gatech.edu

Udaya Lakshmi Tattamangalam Ananthanarayanan
udaya@gatech.edu

Frances McKenzie Murphy
fmurphy7@gatech.edu

TA Office hours:

upon request

Tech Square Research Building (TSRB), Second Floor, between 235A and 236

1.6. Course Website

Course updates, discussions, readings assignments and any other information are distributed through the course CANVAS website.

Please visit this site frequently as all communication will go through it (if not via mailing list).

1.7. Course Communication

We are using CANVAS for all course related communication. Unless you are trying to schedule an appointment with either the TAs or the instructor (see office hours) please post all questions you may have to CANVAS as then fellow classmates will be able to benefit from it as well. CANVAS is our place for discussion, Q&A, and announcements.

1.8. Learning Management System (LMS) – Canvas

We will use Canvas as the learning management system (LMS) for the class. Canvas is the successor of T-Square. Assignments, material distribution, discussions etc. will all be handled through the LMS, which also links to discussions, the class calendar etc. Students who have not used Canvas before are asked to familiarize themselves with the system.

On Canvas the course can be found under:

Mobile&Ubiquitous Comp - A (CS-4605-A/7470-A)

Note that both sections of the course (4605 and 7470) are combined in one on Canvas. All students enrolled into the course are automatically enrolled to it in Canvas.

2. Course Objectives and Outcomes

This course aims to provide students with an overview and the foundations of the research field of the third generation of computing (and beyond). Through active, practical explorations the course aims to provide an appreciation of the practical potential the field offers for researchers and practitioners.

2.1. Course Outline

- Overview of the field and history of Ubiquitous Computing
- Sensors and sensor data analysis including applied machine learning
- Location technologies and how to use them
- Overview of wearable computing: Challenges and design processes
- Context aware computing
- Evaluation of mobile and ubiquitous computing systems
- Privacy in mobile and ubiquitous computing
- Real world applications: implications and challenges

2.2. Intended Outcomes

2.2.1. Knowledge

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Build on the foundations of mobile and ubiquitous computing and their integration into practical applications;
- Discern the capabilities of different components of mobile and ubiquitous computing, which allows for informed decisions regarding suitability and technical challenges;
- Exploit the potential of mobile and ubiquitous computing techniques for real-world applications.

2.2.2. Skills

Through active course participation the students will gain:

- The ability to appreciate and analyze the foundations of the third generation of computing (Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing).
- The ability to use methods of mobile and ubiquitous computing in innovative, real-world practical applications.

3. Grading & Evaluation

3.1. Grading Scheme

Overall course grading is based on the Georgia Tech letter grading system (A through F, as defined [here](#)), where the various components of the course contribute to the overall grade as follows:

3.1.1. Contributions to Overall Grade

component	max. grade contribution
Attendance (activities)	100
Individual Assignment	100
Group Assignments (best 2 out of 3)	200
Project: proposal	100
Project: in-class video presentation	100
Project: final report	100
quiz 1	100
quiz 2	100
Project: final demo	100
total	1000

TAs will use detailed grading schemes for each component, which ensures fair and objective grading.

3.1.2. Calculating Final Grades

Each component (as described above) will be graded separately accumulating points towards the overall course grade. The final, overall course grade is then calculated as follows:

accumulated percentage	grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D

accumulated percentage	grade
<60%	Not passing

3.2. Attendance

Attendance will be recorded for all class activities and will contribute up to 10% to the overall grade (see below).

3.3. Assignments

3.3.1. Individual Assignment

One reading assignment will be given at the beginning of the class, which students have to work on individually and hand in for assessment. Students can earn up to 10% of the overall grade through this assignment. This assignment will cover an individually written essay about the state-of-the-art in ubiquitous computing. A separate discussion session on the topic will be held (January 19). Attendance is mandatory and contributions to the discussion will be assessed individually.

3.3.2. Group Assignments

Three group assignments will be given out throughout the semester. These assignments are linked to in-class activities that students will work on in teams. If not communicated differently these teams will be identical to the project teams. Group assignments will be graded and students can earn up to 10% of the overall course grade each through successful completion.

Important: See further explanation on grading of group assignments [below](#).

The best two out of the three group assignments will be included into the overall grade. Note, however, that students must successfully attempt all three group assignments. *Successfully* refers to achieving at least 60% of the points for each assignment. For every not attempted group assignment the maximally achievable points will be cut by 33%. Example: A team does not submit one of the group assignments, or the submission is of a quality that is worth less than 60 points. For this team the number of points that can be achieved through group assignments will automatically be capped to 66% or 33% (instead of 100) — before grading. Again, see [explanations on grading of group assignments](#) that discuss how non-contributing students will be graded in group assignments.

3.4. Projects

Students will work in groups on one practical project (each) throughout the whole semester. Each project will be overseen by a mentor. Students will have to organize themselves into groups of four and define the specifics of their project. Project ideas will be provided by mentors but can also be defined by the students. A pool of mentors (more senior students, PhD students, staff and faculty members) and project ideas will be available. **Every project team needs to find a mentor and define their project in collaboration with this mentor.** Teaching assistants will support students during the project definition phase to make sure all students will be able to work on a project they want, find interesting, and leads to achievable results. All projects need to be discussed with and approved by TAs or the instructor. Part of these discussions is an adjustment of complexity (by the TAs in discussion with project teams) that will aim at class appropriate projects — that are neither trivial nor unachievable. Examples of successful projects from previous semesters will be shared with the students.

3.4.1. Process

Students will form project teams of four — as soon as the semester starts. Based on the initial readings, the example projects from previous years, and on research areas of and suggestions from mentors

teams will start exploring the wider area of mobile and ubiquitous computing in order to get an understanding of what interests them and what direction their project could go. TAs will play an active role in this process and will help students finding their passion. TAs will also give feedback on the intended complexity of a project — ideally it should be challenging to push students out of their comfort zone and thus to enable learning, whilst at the same time not being unrealistically over-ambitious. This process will be iterative and requires substantial work, but —if done well— it will pay off with a project the team will be passionate about, which will lead to mastery of the field of mobile and ubiquitous computing.

A project fair will be held on January 15 (in class) where mentors present their project ideas / research fields. **Students should not wait until the project fair but start exploring potential project ideas and teams as the semester starts (January 7).**

3.4.2. Project teams

Students are responsible for forming teams of four members. Students are encouraged to enter some basic information about their background, experience, and motivation / interests into a class-public spreadsheet, which will make the project forming process easier. The link to the document is given on Canvas.

All members of a project team will fill a team contract in which they formulate their goals and objectives, their anticipated roles within the project, and their overall ambitions. This contract is a required deliverable (pass / fail grade) and will be used throughout the project to keep track of project progress and especially the individual contributions of all team members. See grading guidelines below.

3.4.3. Deadline for project sign-ups

1/20/2019

3.4.4. IRB

Students can only start working on their project when they have provided evidence for successful completion of relevant IRB (Institutional Review Board, which is concerned with ethical approvals for research conducted at Georgia Tech) training (CITI certificate(s) as outlined [above](#)).

All projects are—per definition—class-room (educational) projects and as such—if adhering to good academic practice as attested through a successful IRB training—are exempt from IRB approval. However, without proper IRB approval (if required by a project) the results of a project can NOT be published as such. Publication (for example, in form of a scientific article) typically requires IRB approval (depending on the project). Teams aiming for publication of their project results should discuss with their mentors / the professor to seek advice.

3.4.5. Deliverables

Projects have the following deliverables that will be graded:

- Project proposal
- Team contract — signed by all team members
- Video presentation (after ~1/2 of project)
- Project demo (end of project)
- Project report.

Guidelines for writing proposals, report, demo, slide and video presentations are available on Canvas (Files section).

3.4.6. Grading

For group assignments and project deliverables every team will submit one copy of the assignment / deliverable to Canvas. Every group assignments must include a statement of the individual team members' contributions to the assignment. TAs and instructor will regularly discuss group participation with every team. All members of a project team will receive the same grade for the main portion of a deliverable. This is a general rule unless in extreme, well justified cases that will need to be discussed with TAs, mentor, and instructor. In case of unequal contributions to a group assignment the grading team will reduce grades on a case by case basis. TAs will grade the project components using a rubric that corresponds to the guidelines for students as mentioned above.

3.4.7. Schedule

See calendar. Note that the schedule is subject to (minor) changes. So, please check the site frequently.

3.5. Midterm Evaluations (In-class quizzes)

Midterm evaluations (see below) provides feedback to students and instructor as basis for (self-)assessment of their course progress. Two in-class quizzes (40-60 minutes each) will be conducted, each of which will be graded contributing to the overall grade with 10% each (20% in total).

- Quiz 1: 02/26/2019
- Quiz 2: 04/11/2019

3.6. Exam

There will be NO final exam.

3.7. Final Demo

Project groups will give a final presentation, which significantly extends all previous project presentations (oral or written). In particular, this presentation shall comprise a fully functional prototype of what has been developed. Final project demos will be graded by the instructor and TAs.

The grade of the final demo contributes 10% to the overall grade. Please see above for further details on grading project components.

4. Course Policies

4.1. 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.

4.2. Anti-Harassment Policy

We will implement a strict anti-harassment, zero tolerance policy in line with the institution's general anti harassment policy as it is defined here: <http://titleix.gatech.edu/anti-harassment-policy>.

4.3. Honor Code

Students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech Honor Code, available at <http://osi.gatech.edu/content/honor-code>, including but not limited to the section on plagiarism (see below).

Thanks for reading this far! We love it when students read the syllabus. If you're reading this, please send a Canvas message to the instruction team (Professor and all TAs) with a picture of a UbiComp-related meme in it to receive a bonus toward your participation grade. Please don't tell your classmates about this little Easter egg though – we want them to discover it on their own! This offer expires two weeks after class started (January 18).

4.4. Attendance & Class Participation

Students are encouraged to attend all sessions. Attendance is **mandatory** (and will be monitored) for all class activities (as specified in the calendar). These include:

- all practical, in-class exercises
- all in-class quizzes
- all in-class project presentation
- all project critique sessions
- all feedback sessions

See the course calendar for details of the schedule.

Active participation in class activities contribute to the final grade (total of max. 10% – see grading scheme). Actively attending one activity session – that is being in class on time, registering on attendance list, and actively contributing to the session through, for example, constructive discussions and work on assignments / exercises – will earn students ten points. A total of 100 points will translate into full marks for attendance and class participation contributing 10% to the overall grade.

Students are expected to be in class on time – as a courtesy to fellow class mates as well as to the instructor. Instructors and TAs will do the same.

4.5. Group Work

Group work is explicitly encouraged for the project students will be working on throughout the course. Project reports will be written in groups (all members of a team submit the same report and receive the same grade). Group discussions in the classroom will be fostered – at appropriate times – throughout the course.

4.6. Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism & Cheating

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.

Instructor(s) and TAs will implement a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism & cheating. This policy is based on the Code of Conduct as cited by the Georgia Tech Honor Code.

As per the Georgia Tech honor code, plagiarism is defined as

“Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or person, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism);“

[<http://osi.gatech.edu/content/honor-code>]

Plagiarism or any other kind of cheating as defined by the Georgia Tech Code of Conduct will result in failing the course.

As a reminder it is worth noting that attendance sheets will be treated the same way as any other material that shall be submitted by students. Signing up for anyone else other than oneself is considered forgery and counts as cheating for both parties involved.

4.7. Submission Policy

All work needs to be submitted through Canvas using the Assignments feature. For group assignments only one submission per team has to be made. We will use the group feature in Canvas as soon as project teams are finalized. TAs will assist students with submissions.

Acceptable format for written reports is PDF (only).

Acceptable format for slides *submission* (not presentation) is PDF (only). Use your favorite presentation software for the presentation in class but please export slides to PDF for submission to Canvas. Alternatively, students may submit links to online resources (such as Google Slides) that can be used for in-class presentations.

When submitting videos, please use standard codecs that can be played on either Mac or Windows machines (test before). However, it is strongly encouraged to rather provide links to online resources (such as youtube) were the videos have been uploaded.

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

Late assignments will not be accepted without a suitable excuse (doctor's note, police report, etc.). Note that extenuating circumstances have to be brought to the instructor's attention before the fact — through the regular channels, that is *do not send doctor's notes to the instructor or TAs* but rather send them to student services who will get in touch with the instructor.

Late submission without evidence of extenuating circumstances will result in 20% automatic grade discount if submitted late — up to a maximum of one day — and zero marks for the particular component if submitted later that one day after the original submission deadline.

Missing an in-class activity linked to a group assignment — This should be avoided at all cost as it will substantially complicate the group work. In case of a planned absence (e.g., for interviews) students are required to communicate this well in advance such that the team and instructor can discuss options. In case of unplanned yet excused absences (illness etc.) instructor and team will discuss options on how a student can make up what has been missed.

Missing an in-class quiz — without evidence of extenuating circumstances as defined before — will result in failing the quiz and thus zero marks for this component. However, in case of extenuating circumstances as defined before quizzes / exams may be rescheduled or other accommodations discussed— according to the official Gatech policy and procedure.

In any case it is strongly advised to consult with the instructor well in advance (at least one week notice) should extenuating circumstances result in extraordinary difficulties with the schedule. Within the constraints of fair treatment and within reason we will always aim for finding a satisfying solution.

4.9. Use of Mobile and other Electronic Devices in the Classroom

As a courtesy to fellow learners — and to the instructors — students are asked to switch off their phones during class. Instructors and TAs will do the same.

The general use of electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets etc. is encouraged during class *for note taking and activities related to the class (only)*. **Please, no coding or working on assignments (for this or any other course) during class.**

5. Learning Resources

5.1. Textbook

We will make use of the following textbook:

Krumm, J. (2009). Ubiquitous Computing Fundamentals (1st ed.). Chapman & Hall/CRC.
<http://www.amazon.com/Ubiquitous-Computing-Fundamentals-John-Krumm/dp/1420093606>

This semester we will put more focus on scientific articles rather than on a single textbook. The majority of the readings will be provided through the course website. For some assignments — and of course for the project work — students are expected to conduct their own, independent literature research (and reading).

5.2. Readings

Students are expected to read the required readings **prior to the session when they are due**. Class discussions and any examinations will assume familiarity with any reading material as distributed through the course website. All the readings and when they are due will be posted on the Canvas. Occasionally, a short written assignment (some of them graded) will accompany a reading to help prepare students for any in-class discussion.

5.3. Rapid Prototyping (Lab)

A selection of electronics and hardware rapid prototyping equipment and tools will be provided to teams on a first come first served basis. Students will have access to both the [GVU Prototyping Lab](#) as well as the [GT Invention Studio](#) where maker equipment such as laser cutter and 3D printer can be used.

Important: For some of the facilities students must attend an orientation session prior to using the equipment within these labs. Please visit the websites and schedule orientation sessions independently, if required.

6. Course Calendar

Weekly lecture topics, readings and other assignments and project due dates will all be posted on Canvas. Please visit this page often as it will be updated regularly.

7. Campus 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.

7.1. 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>
- Residence Life's Learning Assistance Program
- <https://housing.gatech.edu/learning-assistance-program>
- Drop-in tutoring for many 1000 level courses
- 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/>

7.2. Personal Support

7.2.1. Georgia Tech Resources

- The Office of the Dean of Students: <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/services>; 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?
- Counseling Center: <http://counseling.gatech.edu>; 404-894-2575; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor
 - Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources.
 - Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.
- Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR): <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/need-help>
 - 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

7.2.2. National Resources:

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential support 24/7 to those in suicidal or emotional distress at 1-800-273-8255
- The Trevor Project provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention support to members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends. They are available 24/7 by telephone (1-866-488-7386), chat (<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>; 3-10pm Eastern, 7 days a week), and text (Text "Trevor" to 1-202-304-1200; available 3-10pm, M-F).

8. Statement of Intent for Classroom Inclusivity

As members of the Georgia Tech community, the instructor / TAs / mentors are committed to creating a learning environment in which all of our students feel safe and included. Because we are individuals with varying needs, we are reliant on student feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, we invite you to enter into dialogue with us about the things we can stop, start, and continue doing to make the

classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.