

## The Computer Expressive - LMC-6310-DM

 Edit






# Syllabus for LMC 6310 The Computer as an Expressive Medium

Fall 2025


Units: 3




## Schedule

Course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors. Make sure to check back to the online version of the schedule regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Week	Date	Topic	Read / due before class
1	19th Aug	No class	
	21st Aug	Course overview, p5.js showcase Discuss: Allegra	<p><a href="https://showcase.p5js.org/#/">p5.js Showcase</a>  (https://showcase.p5js.org/#/)</p> <p><a href="https://www.aiga.org/resources/how-to-survive-a-critique-a-guide-to-giving-and-receiving-feedback">How to survive a critique - giving and receiving feedback</a>  (https://www.aiga.org/resources/how-to-survive-a-critique-a-guide-to-giving-and-receiving-feedback)</p> <p>Allegra: <a href="https://texere.space/en">TEXERE</a>  (https://texere.space/en), <a href="https://www.indiraallegra.com/the-shape-of-loss-is-a-tapestry">description</a>  (https://www.indiraallegra.com/the-shape-of-loss-is-a-tapestry), <a href="https://www.indiraallegra.com/texere">more description</a>  (https://www.indiraallegra.com/texere)</p>
	22nd Aug	Lab 1: Getting started with p5.js and Mondrian sketch	

2	26th Aug	Discuss: Benjamin	<p><a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396079?wrap=1">Benjamin - The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396079?wrap=1)</a></p> <p><a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2180638">Must be signed up for a lead discussant day before start of class (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2180638)</a></p>
	28th Aug	Demo & Critique	Lab 1
	29th Aug	Lab 2: Interactive pen sketch	
3	2nd Sept	Discuss: Ting	<p><a href="https://olivetinge.com/Within-These-Walls-Dreams-of-Flight-1">Ting - Within These Walls / Dreams of Flight ↗ (https://olivetinge.com/Within-These-Walls-Dreams-of-Flight-1)</a></p> <p><a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396097?wrap=1">Schechner - Performance Studies - Chapter 2 (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396097?wrap=1)</a></p>
	4th Sep	Demo & Critique	Lab 2
	5th Sep	Lab 3: Poetry sketch	
4	9th Sep	Discuss: Nicula & Puig de la Bellacasa	<p><a href="https://dioramas.space/">Nicula - dioramas.space ↗ (https://dioramas.space/)</a> , <a href="https://elisabethnicula.com">elisabethnicula.com</a> ↗ (https://elisabethnicula.com/)</p> <p><a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396095?wrap=1">Puig de la Bellacasa - Matters of Care - Introduction (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396095?wrap=1)</a></p>
	11th Sep	Demo & Critique	Lab 3

	12th Sep	Lab 4: Moving images sketch	
5	16th Sep	Discuss: Zheng	<a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/about">Zheng</a>  ( <a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/about">https://www.conniezheng.com/about</a> ) - <a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/routesroots">Routes/Roots</a>  ( <a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/routesroots">https://www.conniezheng.com/routesroots</a> ), <a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/as-it-is-nothing-lasts-forever-2025">As It is: Nothing Lasts Forever</a>  ( <a href="https://www.conniezheng.com/as-it-is-nothing-lasts-forever-2025">https://www.conniezheng.com/as-it-is-nothing-lasts-forever-2025</a> )
	18th Sep	Demo & Critique	Lab 4
	19th Sep	Lab 5: Keyboard input sketch	
6	23rd Sep	Guest lecture Prof. <a href="https://arch.gatech.edu/people/hyojin-kwon">Hyojin Kwon</a>  ( <a href="https://arch.gatech.edu/people/hyojin-kwon">https://arch.gatech.edu/people/hyojin-kwon</a> )	
	25th Sep	Demo & Critique	Lab 5
	26th Sep	Lab 6: Video camera input sketch	
7	30th Sep	Discuss: Lerchin & Lozano-Hemmer	<a href="https://benlerchin.com/">Lerchin</a>  ( <a href="https://benlerchin.com/">https://benlerchin.com/</a> ) - <a href="http://borderpatrol.us/">Border Patrol</a>  ( <a href="http://borderpatrol.us/">http://borderpatrol.us/</a> )  <a href="https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/">Lozano-Hemmer</a>  ( <a href="https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/">https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/</a> ) - <a href="https://www.bordertuner.net/">Border Tuner / Sintonizador Fronterizo</a>  ( <a href="https://www.bordertuner.net/">https://www.bordertuner.net/</a> ), <a href="https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/border_tuner_sintonizador_fronterizo.php">more info</a>  ( <a href="https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/border_tuner_sintonizador_fronterizo.php">https://www.lozano-hemmer.com/border_tuner_sintonizador_fronterizo.php</a> )
	2nd Oct	Demo & Critique	Lab 6
	3rd Oct	Fall break - no class	

8	7th Oct	Fall break - no class	
	9th Oct	Discuss: Niemeyer	<a href="#">Niemeyer - Metered Tide (Coastal Futures)</a>  ( <a href="https://vimeo.com/631204218">https://vimeo.com/631204218</a> ), <a href="#">artist bio</a>  ( <a href="https://www.gregniemeyer.com/bio">https://www.gregniemeyer.com/bio</a> )
	10th Oct	Lab 7: Data display sketch	
9	14th Oct	Discuss: Santos & Sommer	<a href="#">Santos</a>  ( <a href="https://dorothysantos.com/">https://dorothysantos.com/</a> ) - <a href="#">Domain Errors</a>  ( <a href="https://artjournal.collegeart.org/?p=13838">https://artjournal.collegeart.org/?p=13838</a> ) <a href="#">Sommer - In/Visible Body: Notes on Biotechnologies' Vision</a> ( <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396099?wrap=1">https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396099?wrap=1</a> )
	16th Oct	Demo & Critique	Lab 7
	17th Oct	Lab 8: Sound Reactive sound sketch	
10	21st Oct	Discuss: Heisters, Chen, Christian	<a href="#">Heisters</a>  ( <a href="https://heistersgenerative.com/">https://heistersgenerative.com/</a> ), <a href="#">Chen</a>  ( <a href="https://www.inkboat.com/inkbio/biosherwood/">https://www.inkboat.com/inkbio/biosherwood/</a> ), <a href="#">Christian</a>  ( <a href="https://www.afroubansociety.com/community/gabriel">https://www.afroubansociety.com/community/gabriel</a> ) - <a href="#">Gestures</a>  ( <a href="https://vimeo.com/showcase/6988423">https://vimeo.com/showcase/6988423</a> )
	23rd Oct	Demo & Critique	Lab 8
	24th Oct	Lab 9: Special topic from Yuhan Hou	
11	28th Oct	Introduce final projects	<a href="#">Fabulation as an Approach to Design Futuring</a> ( <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396101?wrap=1">https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396101?wrap=1</a> ) <a href="#">Scaling Bodily Fluids for Utopian</a>

			<a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396087?wrap=1">Fabulations (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396087?wrap=1)</a>  <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396103?wrap=1">Fabulating Biodata Futures (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/files/64396103?wrap=1)</a>
	30th Oct	Demo & Critique	Lab 9
	31st Oct	Project Brainstorm Activity	
12	4th Nov	Project Proposals	
	6th Nov	Project Proposals	
	7th Nov	Work on projects	
13	11th Nov	Work on projects	
	13th Nov	Work on projects	
	14th Nov	Work on projects	
14	18th Nov	Project Presentations	
	20th Nov	Project Presentations	
	21st Nov	TBD	
15	25th Nov	TBD	
	27th Nov	Thanksgiving - no class	

16	2nd Dec	TBD	
...	...		
		No exam. Instructor must submit grades 15th Dec 12pm noon	

## Course Meetings

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30pm - 4:20pm, Skiles 357

Fridays, 12:30pm - 3:15pm, Skiles Skiles 346

You must register for both "The Computer Expressive - 87052 - LMC 6310 - DM" and "The Computer Expressive - 86560 - LMC 6310 - DM1" for this class.

## Instructors

Dr. Noura Howell, Assistant Professor, Digital Media, Georgia Tech, [nhowell8@gatech.edu](mailto:nhowell8@gatech.edu) (<mailto:nhowell8@gatech.edu>), [nourahowell.com](http://nourahowell.com) ↗ (<https://nourahowell.com/>), [Future Feelings Lab](https://sites.gatech.edu/futurefeelings/) ↗ (<https://sites.gatech.edu/futurefeelings/>) Director, Pronouns: she/her/hers

Sathwik Toduru, Computer Science, Georgia Tech, [vmadabushi6@gatech.edu](mailto:vmadabushi6@gatech.edu) (<mailto:vmadabushi6@gatech.edu>), [sathwiktoduru.me](https://www.sathwiktoduru.me/) ↗ (<https://www.sathwiktoduru.me/>)

Office hours: By appointment only. Email Dr. Howell and/or Sathwik with email subject line "LMC 6310 office hours request", listing all your available times for the following week.

## Outline

How can computers be used as an expressive medium? This course invites students to engage computing and digital media technology for creative, artistic, expressive purposes. The focus is on using technology in service of compelling creative expressions. This requires working to develop basic computational literacy, creative idea generation, and a critical perspective on digital practices.

## Skills developed in this class

## **Computational Literacy**

Don't let anyone, including yourself, intimidate you about coding. It just takes practice and support, like anything else. We will provide the support, and expect you to put in the practice. In this class, we'll focus on p5js.

## **Creative Idea Generation**

Having creative ideas isn't always magical inspiration, it's often more like a muscle or a skill that you practice, train, maintain, grow. In this class, you will be on a strict training regimen to generate creative ideas every week.

## **Critical Perspective**

... But what does it all mean?? We will critically discuss the potential meanings and politics of many different example works that engage the computer as an expressive medium. Toward the latter half of the class, we will hone in on one approach for the final projects - called fabulation.

# Weekly rhythm of the class sessions

## **Tuesdays: Discussion**

To learn about the expressive potential of computing, we will explore many examples of projects that use the computer as an expressive medium. This will be a seminar style discussion of selected examples. Every student will pick a day to be a lead discussant.

## **Thursdays: Demo Day**


Every student will demo their lab assignment every week. Get inspired by your peers and learn from their examples. Support each other. Lab assignments will be graded on the basis of both technical skills (e.g., technical capabilities employed, elegant code) and creativity (e.g., concept, aesthetics, surprising use of medium).

## **Fridays: Creative Coding Lab**

These labs will require students to develop basic programming skills in p5js, and apply these coding skills toward making creative "sketches". The TA will lead the lab sessions.

# Materials Needed

Students must have access to a computer capable of running p5js in a web browser. If this poses a

financial burden, please follow the instructions [here](https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0043778)  ([https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0043778](https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0043778)) to request to borrow a laptop from OIT and email [support@lmc.gatech.edu](mailto:support@lmc.gatech.edu) (<mailto:support@lmc.gatech.edu>) to ask if there are any computers that can be borrowed. Please let the instructor know and we will work with you to make sure you are able to participate in the class. Because p5.js is available online in the web browser, you can also work on this on public computers in computer labs, the library, etc., and save your work to your private account.

No purchases. All readings online.

## Main Assignments

### **Creative Coding Sketches (Labs)**

Weekly labs will develop creative coding skills in p5js. These will be created online in p5js and saved to the student's individual free online p5js account. Turning in the labs requires demoing the lab in class on the due date as well as submitting documentation on Canvas on the due date before the start of class.

### **Lead Discussant**

Each student will sign up for a day to be a lead discussant. A few students will sign up for the same day and work together to lead the discussion on that class day. Your group will work together to suggest additional reading(s), present on readings to the class, prepare questions relevant to the readings and artifacts, etc.

### **Project on Fabulating Alternative Futures**

The final project for the course will explore fabulation as a method for imagining alternative ways of living with technology, computation, and digital media. It is a group project, and students can choose their own groups. The final project has a few assignments: Project Proposal Presentation, Project Code, Demo Video, Final Presentation, Project Report.

## Grading Breakdown

### Assignments weighting

Labs 50%

Project 30%

Lead Discussant 10%

Participation 10%

## Grading range

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 0-59%

## Participation and Attendance


Class attendance and participation is mandatory\*.

Participation throughout the semester is part of the final grade for this class. Students are expected to participate in discussions and in giving and receiving feedback on their work with their peers. Students should try to foster a supportive, inclusive, welcoming space for all their peers to participate in - this might mean talking a little more or talking a little less than your default.

Participation in class discussion is imperative because it allows you to explore the concepts collaboratively, and in the process, discover meanings and issues that you probably would not discover on your own. Participation in class also challenges you to continuously question, refine, and articulate your own ideas and interpretations.

\*Stay home and rest if you are sick! This is important for your health and the health of everyone else in the classroom. Please send an email to the instructors to let us know. You can check Canvas and ask your peers for help getting caught up in the class, and if there are any remaining questions you can contact the instructors.

## Student-Faculty Expectations


We remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, agree to abide by these principles in our time here, and will encourage each other to uphold these responsibilities as outlined in the [Student-Faculty Expectations](https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/)  (<https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/>) .

## Office of Disability Services

Please be aware that the [Office of Disability Services](https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/) (<https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>) (<https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>)

[disabilityservices.gatech.edu/](https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/) is available to help with accommodations needs. In this class, we are firmly committed to supporting your accommodations.

## Statement on Non-Discrimination

The Georgia Institute of Technology has a commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, ancestry, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or veteran status. If you or someone you know believes you are experiencing any type of discriminatory behavior, even if none of the above policies have been violated yet, you may consider reaching out to the [Equal Opportunity, Compliance, and Conflict Management \(EOCCM\)](https://eoc.gatech.edu/)  (<https://eoc.gatech.edu/>) team to learn more about possible supportive measures, resolution pathways, and on-and-off campus resources. The EOCCM website has more information on reporting options for students, faculty, and staff, as well as resources for support.

We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of all those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in broader society.

We may discuss topics that challenge you to re-evaluate your assumptions or beliefs, which some people may find uncomfortable. Our classroom environment may not always be comfortable, but we all have a shared responsibility to ensure that our classroom environment is always **respectful**.

## Mental/Emotional Health Resources

Mental/emotional health is important for learning and wellbeing. There are a variety of support resources available for students. You are not alone. Visit <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/> (<https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>) to learn more.

## Title IX and Mandatory Reporting

Students should be aware that Institute employees may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of GT community members and others. Instructors for this course must report the following information to other Institute offices (including the university Title IX Coordinator and Police Department) if it is shared with us:


- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared.


If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Center for Mental Health Care & Resources. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

- [Report an Incident](https://eoc.gatech.edu/reporting-options/report-an-incident)  (<https://eoc.gatech.edu/reporting-options/report-an-incident>)
- [Georgia Tech's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures](https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/sexual-misconduct)  (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/sexual-misconduct>)
- [Campus and Community Resources for Sexual Assault, Rape, Dating or Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Related Issues](https://wellnesscenter.gatech.edu/voice/campus-community-resources)  (<https://wellnesscenter.gatech.edu/voice/campus-community-resources>)

## Writing and speaking support at the Communication Center

Alumni consistently emphasize the value of presentation skills for success in their careers. Everyone is encouraged to maximize their writing and speaking skills so that you can best convey your thoughts and ideas. The Communication Center (<https://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/>  <https://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/>) offers student support for communication skills. You have thoughts and ideas worth sharing, and communication skills can help you effectively share them with others.

## Library Resources

The [GT Library](https://www.library.gatech.edu/)  (<https://www.library.gatech.edu/>) has numerous resources, gadget rental, study space, activities, and more. They are an amazing resource on campus, check out what they have to offer!


## Sharing of work

Participation in the course implies permission for sharing work done in this class with others:

1. In this class, for presentations, feedback, and critique – with your name associated with the work
2. With future students, if your work is a good example that can help other students learn – without your name associated with the work
3. In a public teaching portfolio for the instructors, to showcase the wonderful outcomes of the course – with your name associated with the work, unless you specify a wish to remain anonymous

If you are not comfortable with this for any reason, please let me know. I will respect your wishes regarding #2 and #3. I am not able to accommodate assignment privacy for #1 for pedagogical reasons, so please make sure that any work you turn in, you are comfortable sharing with the entire class. Unless I am informed by you in writing (email) that you do not want your work shared with others, I will assume that it is permissible to share your work in ways #1, #2, and #3 above.

## Honor Code

Students are expected to adhere to the [Georgia Tech Honor Code](https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code)  (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>).

Have you heard the saying, "Good artists borrow, great artists steal?"


**Don't** steal anyone's work.




**Do** get inspiration from other people's work, and adapt it in your own way to make it your own by adding some of yourself to it.






**Do** cite your sources. You can cite your classmate's sketch from last week. You can cite some example code you found online. You can cite our coding wonderful instructor who helped you figure something out. You can say you got help from a classmate. But be clear about what parts you took from someone else, and what parts you changed or added. Scholars are always building on others' work and citing others' work.

**In this class, you are required to give credit to others by citing their work.**

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Aug 28, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/">Lab 1: Intro to p5.js and Mondrian Art</a> ( <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/">https://gatech.instructure.com/</a> )	due by 3:30pm

Date	Details	Due
	<a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2196110">courses/479980/assignments/2196110</a>	
Thu Sep 4, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2222248">Lab 2: Introduction to Functions, Loops, and Interactive Pen Sketch (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2222248)</a>	due by 12:30pm
Thu Sep 11, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2228210">Lab 3: Arrays and Poetry Sketch (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2228210)</a>	due by 12:30pm
Thu Sep 18, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2232276">Lab 4: Digital Collage Sketch (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2232276)</a>	due by 12:30pm
Thu Sep 25, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2236386">Lab 5: Keyboard Input and Array Objects (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2236386)</a>	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 2, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2242226">Lab 6: Introduction to Classes and Object-Oriented Programming (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2242226)</a>	due by 12:30pm
Tue Nov 4, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186316">Project Proposal (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186316)</a>	due by 3:30pm
Tue Nov 18, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186318">Project Demo (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186318)</a>	due by 3:30pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Dec 2, 2025	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186322">Project Video (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186322)</a>	due by 3:30pm
	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186234">Coding Resources (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2186234)</a>	
	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2181866">Labs grading rubric and how to turn in the lab (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2181866)</a>	
	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2180638">Lead Discussant (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2180638)</a>	
	 <a href="https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2209368">Participation (https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/479980/assignments/2209368)</a>	