COMM 4555
Computer interface & human identity
School of Communication (SP2022)

Days & Times: Mon 9:10-11:00am

In-Person Meeting Location: Journalism 216

Instructor: Roselyn Lee-Won, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

    Email (preferred means of contact): lee-won.1@osu.edu

    ☼ **Please note:**

- When you start typing my last name in the To/Cc fields in Outlook, you might see lee-won.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu pop up as a suggested recipient. This Buckeyemail address does NOT work; emails sent to this address do not reach me. Please be sure to send your email to lee-won.1@osu.edu.
- Don't forget to include [COMM4555] in your subject line. Failing to do so may delay response.

    Phone number: 614-292-1006

    Office hours: Mon 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment on Zoom (see Carmen for access)

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines what role human identity plays in the ways in which people use computer interfaces (and, more broadly, emerging technologies). We will focus on the following aspects of "human identity": traits and attributes that make human beings unique (and distinct from non-human beings) and traits and attributes that characterize an individual/member of a group. Students will engage themselves with these topics through lectures, academic readings, video materials, in-class/online discussions, and writing assignments. By taking this course, students should be able to achieve the following:

1. Develop scholarly knowledge about the cognitive, affective, and behavioral dynamics associated with self-concept and personal/social identity processes in people's use of computer interfaces.

2. Gain theoretical and empirical insights into how computer interfaces influence people's sense of self and social identity.

3. Become more mindful about technology use in everyday life.

Mode of Delivery

The delivery format of this course is HYBRID. According to the OSU guidelines on instruction modes (https://keeplearning.osu.edu/understanding-instruction-modes), up to 74% of the course content could be delivered online in a hybrid class. This instruction mode will give us some flexibility as we continue to live through the pandemic. Online learning will include synchronous (via Zoom) and asynchronous activities.

Course Materials

All required readings are provided on our Carmen Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are required to participate in the lectures (in-person or live Zoom). If you are unable to attend lectures due to extenuating circumstances, then you will be offered an opportunity to view the recording of the missed session to stay on track. This course will follow the schedule presented at the end of this syllabus. Students are expected to keep pace with all graded assignments.

Required Items	Point	Percentage
Intake Survey	10 pts	2 %
Self-Introduction Video	20 pts	4 %
10 Prep Quizzes (on assigned readings) *10 pts per quiz; TWO lowest scores will be dropped	80 pts	16 %
Small Group Discussions (posting & replying) x 3 *20 pts per posting & 20 pts per replying	120 pts	24 %
Practice Question Writing x 2 *20 pts per assignment	40 pts	8 %
Course Reflection Paper	30 pts	6 %
Exam 1	80 pts	16 %
Exam 2	120 pts	24 %
TOTAL	**500 pts**	**100 %**

Letter Grade	Grade Cut-Off	
	Percentages	Pts
A	93%	465
A-	90%	450
B+	87%	435
B	83%	415
B-	80%	400
C+	77%	385
C	73%	365
C-	70%	350
D+	67%	335
D	60%	300
E	< 60%	< 299

Please note: Your grades will be exactly what is earned and will not be manually rounded up. There will be opportunities for extra credit for students who choose to earn those points.

Week 1-2 Assignments: Intake Survey and Self-Introduction Video

All class participants will be required to complete and submit (1) Intake Survey and (2) a short (1-2 minute) self-introduction video. Find the instructions for these assignments on Carmen.

Prep Quizzes

Prep quizzes, which will address readings required for the upcoming week, will be activated by the end of Tuesday and will close at 11:59pm EDT/EST on Saturday **prior to** the Monday class session. There will be a sufficient amount of time and flexibility for you to complete each quiz. For example, if you miss one quiz and get zero points for the quiz, this will be dropped as one of the TWO lowest scores; also, you will be allowed TWO attempts for each prep quiz, and the higher score will be recorded. As answer key for each quiz will be released to those who completed the quiz on Carmen, make-up requests for missed quizzes will NOT be considered without a valid _and_ documentable medical or university-approved excuse.

Small Group Discussions

Students will be expected to participate in small group discussions via Carmen discussion boards. See the course schedule presented at the end of this syllabus for the due dates for posting and responding to group members.

Exams

We will have two exams (1 and 2), which will be administered on Carmen. The exams will contain true-false, multiple-choice questions, and open-ended/short-essay questions—all based on readings and lectures. Exam 2 will be semi-cumulative and about one third (33.3%) of the questions will be based on the topics covered during the 1st half semester. Exam guides and review sessions will be provided prior to each exam. Exams will only be rescheduled with a valid _and_ documentable medical or university-approved excuse.

Practice Question Writing 1 & 2

Before the exams, students will write practice questions on the assigned reading materials. More instructions will be available during Week 3.

Course Reflection Paper

At the end of the semester, students will write a reflection paper on theories, concepts, and research findings covered in this course. More instructions will be made available during Week 12.

Attendance and Participation

I expect you to attend class each week. However, given the continued pandemic situation, you should not attend class if you are feeling sick. If you have to miss class due to illness (including but not limited to COVID-19) or other difficult situations, please let me know as soon as you are safely able to do so and we will discuss a reasonable opportunity for you to make up the missed content.

Late Work

As noted above, missed prep quizzes cannot be made up without a valid and documentable medical or university-approved excuse, and late posts/replies for small group discussions will not receive credit. Late paper submissions will be assessed with a cumulative penalty (20% off the submission per each late day after the deadline).

For all Carmen assignment submissions, it is the student's responsibility to be sure the assignment submitted correctly. Please be sure to check your Carmen folder after submission to ensure the upload is there and complete.

Credit Hour and Work Expectation

This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average. ASC Honors provides an excellent guide to scheduling and study expectations.

Faculty Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. Remember that you can call **614-688-4357 (HELP)** at any time if you have a technical problem.

E-mail

This is a hybrid course, so we will frequently rely on email for communication. It is expected that students will check and read emails from the instructor and reach out to the instructor with any questions or concerns regarding course activities. The instructor will make every effort to reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**. Responses may be slower on weekends. When contacting the instructor, please note the following:

1. Use OSU email system: Although some courses may utilize Carmen messaging as their primary mode of instructor-student communication, we will use OSU email as the primary mode of communication. Messages to our OSU accounts from non-OSU email services may be marked as spam. Also, since OSU cannot confirm delivery of such emails, you may not use them as evidence of communication attempts. Considering these aspects, please email through your Buckeyemail account.

2. Include our course number in the subject line: When contacting the instructor, please don't forget to include [COMM4555] in your subject line. Failing to do so may delay response.

Grading and feedback

Except for prep quizzes of which scores you can view within 24 hours after the quiz deadline, you can generally expect feedback and grade posting on each required assignment within **10 to 14 days**.

Communication and Discussion Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **E-mail protocols:** Follow proper business/professional email etiquette when you initiate the conversation: (1) Include a clear, direct subject line (do not leave it blank) and (2) use a proper salutation. Personalizing email messages by addressing your recipient(s) can make a significant difference in the impression formation process. Consider this practice the first step to effective email communication!

- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. The instructor will work very hard to provide a positive learning experience. Please keep this in mind and remain civilized and respectful in your email and discussion board communications.

- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, please use APA style. For online sources, be sure to include a link.)

Tips on Optimal Learning Experience

Here are a few tips on how to complete this course successfully:

- (For synchronous/asynchronous online activities) Make sure you have access to a reliable Internet connection and test your device ahead of time to avoid last-minute glitches.

- Keep up with the course schedule/assignment due dates and complete course activities at a steady pace during the week, avoiding procrastination at all times.

- Secure access to at least one reliable device and a backup plan in case of a technological issue.

- Set up a routine to back up your work and class materials. OSU provides free access to data storage through Microsoft One Drive.

- Approach course material by thinking about the connections between readings, lectures, and assignments.

Course Technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Carmen:**
    - Carmen, Ohio State's Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit Carmen.osu.edu. Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.
    - Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen
    - **This course requires use of Carmen and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.**
        - Carmen Canvas accessibility

- **Carmen Zoom:**
    - Office hours will be held through Ohio State's conferencing platform, Carmen Zoom.
    - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within Carmen Zoom for the student to live chat with the professor.
    - Carmen Zoom help guide

- **Turnitin:**
    - Students at The Ohio State University are accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Therefore, you should be familiar with the guidelines provided by the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) and Section A of OSU's Code of Student Conduct in order to meet the academic expectations concerning appropriate documentation of sources. In addition, OSU has made Turnitin, a learning tool and plagiarism prevention system, available to instructors. For this class, you will submit your papers to Turnitin from Carmen. When grading your work, I will interpret the originality report, following Section A of OSU's Code of Student Conduct as appropriate. For more information about Turnitin, please see the vendor's guide for students. Note that submitted papers become part of the OSU database.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Necessary equipment and software

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Web cam and microphone (when we have to meet via Zoom for some of the online portion)
- Word processor with the ability to save files under .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Most popular word processing software programs including Microsoft Word and Mac Pages have these abilities.
- OSU students have access to Microsoft Office products free of charge. To install, please visit https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733.

Academic Integrity Policy

General policies for assignments

- **Written assignments**: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow **APA** style (7th edition) to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work for you.
- **Reusing past work**: In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results**: Any research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.

Academic misconduct

All of your work in this class is expected to be your independent contribution. You should not seek help from other students, friends, family, etc.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/

COVID-19 and Illness Policies

Health and safety requirements

All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times.

COVID-19 Accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Student illness or absence

If *you* are too ill to participate in this course due to COVID-19 or another illness, please contact the instructor as soon as you are able. Alternate assignments or extensions may be arranged.

Instructor illness or absence

If *the instructor* is too ill to teach the course or must quarantine, in-person meetings will be moved to Zoom or asynchronous online modules, or a designated backup (e.g., teaching assistant, substitute faculty member) for this course will step in. You will be notified via email from the School of Communication.

University Resources and Policies

Student Academic Services & Student Services

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services' website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml.

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: http://ssc.osu.edu.

Copyright Disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Diversity

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Interim Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Molly Peirano, at titleix@osu.edu

Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24-hour emergency help is also available through the Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445)

Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Requesting Accommodations

If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let the instructor know immediately to privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, the instructor may request registering with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Course Schedule

This syllabus presents a contract in the works. Events that happen over the semester may require me to modify the administration of the course, and specific items may be subject to change. If changes need to be made, I will make announcements in advance to help you plan things ahead.

Week	Lecture Topics & Required Readings	Assignment Due Dates & Asynchronous Activities
1 *Zoom*	**Welcome and Introduction** (**01/10** Monday class meeting time)	Intake Survey (**01/13** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
2	**No Class: MLK Day** (**01/17** Monday)	Self-Introduction Video (**01/20** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
3	**Self & Identity: Key Concepts** (**01/24** Monday class meeting time) Onorato & Turner (2004) & Trepte (2006) -- excerpts	Prep Quiz 1 (**01/22** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 1 Posting (**01/27** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
4	**Computer Interface and Self-Esteem** (**01/31** Monday class meeting time) Gonzales & Hancock (2011) Forest & Wood (2012)	Prep Quiz 2 (**01/29** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 1 Replying (**02/03** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
5	**Computer Interface and Self-Presentation** (**02/07** Monday class meeting time) Bazarova et al. (2013) Hoffner (2014)	Prep Quiz 3 (**02/05** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 2 Posting (**02/10** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
6	**Computer Interface and Social Comparison** (**02/14** Monday class meeting time) Chou & Edge (2012) Meier & Schafer (2018)	Prep Quiz 4 (**02/12** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 2 Replying (**02/17** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
7	**Computer Interface, Professional Identity, and Impression Management** (**02/21** Monday class meeting time) D'Angelo & Van Der Heide (2016) *LinkedIn* Analysis	Prep Quiz 5 (**02/19** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Practice Question Writing 1 (**02/24** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
8 *Zoom*	**Catching up + Exam 1 Review** (**02/28** Monday class meeting time) Exam Guide	
9	**Exam 1 on Carmen** (**03/07** Monday class meeting time)	
10	**No Class: Spring Break** (**03/14** Monday)	

11	**Social Identity and Virtual Representation** (**03/21** Monday class meeting time) Sundar & Marathe (2010) Lee-Won et al. (2017) Cheryan et al. (2011)	Prep Quiz 6 (**03/19** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
12 *Zoom*	**Avatars vs. Agents** (**03/28** Monday class meeting time) Space Survival Task: group activity Lim & Reeves (2010)	Prep Quiz 7 (**03/26** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
13	**Autonomous Technology** (**04/04** Monday class meeting time) Takayama et al. (2008) Liang & Lee (2017)	Prep Quiz 8 (**04/02** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 3 Posting (**04/07** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
14	**Relationship with Computers and Robots** (**04/11** Monday class meeting time) Space Survival Task Review Reeves & Nass (1996) Groom et al. (2009)	Prep Quiz 9 (**04/09** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 3 Replying (**04/14** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
15	**Computer Interface and Intergroup Hostility** (**04/18** Monday class meeting time) Ferrari et al. (2016) Nijssen et al. (2020)	Prep Quiz 10 (**04/16** Saturday 3:00 p.m. EDT/EST) Practice Question Writing 2 (**04/21** Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
16 *Zoom*	**Exam 2 Review + Wrapping Up** (**04/25** Monday class meeting time) Exam Guide	Course Reflection Paper (**04/23** Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
17	**Exam 2 on Carmen** **04/27 (Wed) 9:00am through 04/28 (Thu) 6:00pm** *Please note the date and time.*	