

COMM 4555

Computer Interface & Human Identity

School of Communication (AU2022)

Days & Times: THU 10:20am-12:10pm

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

Phone number: 614-292-1006

Office hours: Tue 4:00-5:00pm 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 gain theoretical and empirical knowledge and insights into:

1. How computer interfaces influence users’ self-concept and personal/social identity
2. How users’ self-concept and personal/social identity shape their experience with computer interfaces.
3. How cognitive, affective, and behavioral dynamics associated with self-concept and personal/social identity processes shape people’s relationships with computer interfaces.

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. Some of the class meetings will be held virtually on Zoom.

Course Materials

All required readings are provided on our Carmen Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Grading Information

Required Items		Point	Percentage
Attendance & Participation		80 pts	10%
Week 1-2	Intake Survey	10 pts	1.25%
Starters	Self-Introduction Video	30 pts	3.75%
9 Prep Quizzes (on assigned readings) *20 pts per quiz; TWO lowest scores will be dropped		140 pts	17.5%
Final Project	Proposal & Group Feedback (30/30)	60 pts	7.5%
	Check-In # Posting & Group Feedback (20/20)	40 pts	5%
	Presentation Video	60 pts	7.5%
	Presentation Audience Evaluations (2 sessions)	20 pts	2.5%
	Written Report	80 pts	10%
Course Reflection Paper		40 pts	5%
Exams	Midterm	100 pts	12.5%
	Final	140 pts	17.5%
TOTAL		800 pts	100 %

Letter Grade	Grade Cut-Off	
	Percentages	Pts
A	93%	744
A-	90%	720
B+	87%	696
B	83%	664
B-	80%	640
C+	77%	616
C	73%	584
C-	70%	560
D+	67%	536
D	60%	480
E	< 60%	< 480

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

Attendance & Participation

Starting Week 2, attendance will be taken for every class. Students will be allowed to have one penalty-free absence; you are not required to inform me or provide explanation for the penalty-free absence. Any undocumented absence beyond that will result in a deduction of -5 points per absence.

Starters for Week1-2: 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 open at **12:01 am on Fridays** and will close at **11:59 pm on Tuesdays** prior to the Thursday class meetings. 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. Answer key for each quiz will be released to those who completed the quiz on Carmen.

Final Project

Students will work on a project investigating a topic concerning technology use and human identity (involving human-ness, sense of self, personal/social identity, etc.) using in-person interviews. Further guidelines for the project and sample materials will be provided to you 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 11.

Exams

We will have two exams (Midterm and Final), which will be administered on Carmen. The exams will contain true-false and multiple-choice questions—all based on readings and lectures. The Final Exam 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, but students will be provided with information on what topics will be covered in the exam guide. 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.**

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.

Course Policies

Late Work

- Late submissions will be assessed with a cumulative penalty. Specifically, submitting work one day after the deadline (including weekends) yields a -10% point penalty for the submission. For each additional day after the deadline, an additional -10% will be taken off the submission.
- Canvas automatically rounds up days late to the next whole number. **Whether 1.1 days or 1.9 days late, the Canvas Gradebook will automatically deduct points as though the submission were 2 days late.**
- 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.**

E-mail Use

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 & 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 small group communications.

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.

Faculty Feedback and Response Time

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**.

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

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 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.

OSU IT Support

Self-Service and Chat support: <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>

Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)

Email: 8help@osu.edu

TDD: 614-688-8743

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/>

Illness Policies

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>.

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 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 as soon as possible to help you plan things ahead.*

Week	Lecture Topics & Required Readings	Assignment Due Dates & Asynchronous Activities (All due dates by 11:59pm EDT/EST)
1	Welcome and Introduction (08/25 Thursday class meeting time)	
2	Self, Identity, and Understanding “THE OTHER” (09/01 Thursday class meeting time) Onorato & Turner (2004) & Trepte (2006) – excerpts Web Resources on Design Thinking	Prep Quiz 1 (08/30 Tuesday) Intake Survey & Self-Introduction Video (09/01 Thursday)
3	Computer Interface and Self-Esteem (09/08 Thursday class meeting time) Gonzales & Hancock (2011) Forest & Wood (2012)	Prep Quiz 2 (09/06 Tuesday) Final Project Guidelines
4	Computer Interface and Self-Presentation (09/15 Thursday class meeting time) Bazarova et al. (2013) Lee-Won et al. (2020)	Prep Quiz 3 (09/13 Tuesday)
5	Computer Interface and Social Comparison (09/22 Thursday class meeting time) Hoffner (2014) Chou & Edge (2012) Meier & Schafer (2018)	Prep Quiz 4 (09/20 Tuesday)
6	Social Identity and Virtual Representation; Exam Review (09/29 Thursday class meeting time) Sundar & Marathe (2010, excerpt) Lee-Won et al. (2017) Cheryan et al. (2011) Exam Guide	Prep Quiz 5 (09/27 Tuesday) Final Project Proposal: Group Posting (10/01 Saturday)
7	Midterm Exam on Carmen (10/06 Thursday 9:00am through 11:59pm)	Final Project Proposal: Group Feedback (10/08 Saturday)
8	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK	

9	Avatars vs. Agents (10/20 Thursday class meeting time) Space Survival Task: group activity Lim & Reeves (2010)	Prep Quiz 6 (10/18 Tuesday)
10	Intergroup Dynamics in Human-Machine Relationship (HMR) 1: Intro (10/27 Thursday class meeting time) Space Survival Task Review Reeves & Nass (1996) Takayama et al. (2008)	Prep Quiz 7 (10/25 Tuesday) Final Project Check-in: Group Posting (10/29 Saturday)
11	Intergroup Dynamics in HMR 2: The Role of Anthropomorphism (11/03 Thursday class meeting time) Groom et al. (2009) Ferrari et al. (2016)	Prep Quiz 8 (11/01 Tuesday) Final Project Check-in: Group Feedback (11/05 Saturday) Course Reflection Paper Instructions
12	Intergroup Dynamics in HMR 3: Beyond Negative Emotions (11/10 Thursday class meeting time) Liang & Lee (2017) Haggadone et al. (2021)	Prep Quiz 9 (11/08 Tuesday)
13	Final Project Presentations: Session 1 (11/17 Thursday class meeting time)	Final Project Videos: Session 1 Presenters (11/15 Tuesday)
14	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	
15	Final Project Presentations: Session 2 (12/01 Thursday class meeting time)	Final Project Videos: Session 2 Presenters (11/29 Tuesday) Exam Review
16-17	Final Exam on Carmen 12/12 (Monday) through 12/13 (Tuesday)	Final Project Written Report (12/05 Monday) Course Reflection Paper (12/06 Tuesday)