

AU23 COMM 4555

Computer Interface & Human Identity

Days & Times: 11:10 am - 12:30 pm

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

Zoom Office Hours: Mon 9:00-10:00 am or by appointment
(see Carmen for the Zoom link)

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”: (a) traits and attributes that characterize an individual/member of a group and (b) traits and attributes that make human beings unique (and distinct from non-human beings). Students will engage themselves with these topics through lectures, readings, video materials, group discussions, individual project, 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://teaching.resources.osu.edu/StudentInstructionalModes>), up to 74% of the course content could be delivered online (synchronously on Zoom or asynchronously) in a hybrid class. This means that we will have a mixture of in-person class meetings and asynchronous online content throughout the semester. Zoom meetings will be held only when absolutely necessary.

- In-person meetings will be held in the designated classroom.
- Asynchronous course content will be released (or begin) at 9am on the scheduled date (see the Course Schedule).

Course Materials

All required readings are provided on our Carmen Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Grading Information

Required Items		Point	
Attendance & Participation in Live Class Meetings (16 x 10 pts)		160	
Starters	Intake Survey	10	
	Kick-Off Quiz	10	
	Self-Introduction Video	20	
Activities for Asynchronous Online Content	Quiz	APA Style Quiz	10
		Research Methods Review Quiz	10
		Final Project Guidelines Quiz	10
		Generative AI Quiz	10
		Uncanny Valley Quiz	10
	Small Group Discussion	Robot Roles: Posting (10 pts) & Responding (10 pts)	20
		Relating to Androids: Posting (10 pts) & Responding (10 pts)	20
Final Project Requirements	Brainstorming & Group Feedback (10 pts & 10 pts)		20
	Proposal & Group Feedback (20 pts & 20 pts)		40
	Interview Documentation		20
	Presentation Video (40 pts) & Slides (30 pts)		70
	Presentation Q&A (20 pts & 20 pts)		40
Course Reflection Paper		20	
Exams	Midterm (T/F 30 pts & MC 100 pts)		130
	Final (T/F 45 pts & MC 125 pts)		170
TOTAL		800	

Letter Grade	Grade Cut-Off	
	Percentage	Point
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

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 additional points.

Attendance & Participation (A&P)

- **Starting Week 2**, unless otherwise announced, attendance will be taken for every class. At the end of each class, students will be asked to respond to a checkpoint question about the content covered that day on the Carmen discussions board (worth **10 points** per session).
- For the Zoom-only class meeting (“Space Survival Task”), students must attend the whole session to be considered “fully present.”
- Lectures will be recorded but will not be posted on Carmen. Links to the recordings will only be available to those who can provide valid documentation for their absence.
- Those who are unable to attend class meetings due to unavoidable circumstances (e.g., illness, transportation failures, travel), **with valid documentation only**, may request a link to the lecture recording and may earn full credit by doing ALL of the following:
 - 1) *informing the instructor of the absence via e-mail*
AND
 - 2) *watching the lecture recording and submitting (by email) completed lecture notes* within a week from the day they missed the class*
AND
 - 3) *responding to the checkpoint question from the missed class*

**See the Lecture Note Policy*

Starters: Intake Survey, Kick-Off Quiz, and Self-Introduction Video

The three items are intended for the instructor to help you clearly understand the requirements of this course and also to get to know you better. Find the instructions for these assignments on Carmen.

Activities for Asynchronous Content

Instructions for activities assigned to asynchronous content will be available 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.) by conducting in-depth interviews. More information will be provided in the Final Project Guidelines for more information (Week 6).

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 (Part 1) and multiple-choice questions (Part 2)—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

Lecture Notes

- To ensure students actively engage themselves with the content delivered in the live (in-person and/or virtual) lectures, **lecture notes (to be posted on the Modules page prior to each class) will contain blanks to be filled.** Students are expected to fill the blanks and take notes as they participate in the class.
- As the course instructor, I have the responsibility to be fair to everyone. Providing access to full notes to students who did not attend live lectures would not be fair to others who are keeping up with the lectures. **For fairness to all students, full lecture slides will not be provided.**
- Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the lecture content.

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 0.1 days or 0.9 days late, the Canvas Gradebook will automatically deduct points as though the submission was one day late.**
- For all Carmen assignment submissions, it is the student's responsibility to be sure the assignment is 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.

Carmen Canvas

- Carmen Canvas, 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, and you should follow **APA** style (7th edition) when citing the ideas and words of others—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

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. 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 <https://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 at 614-292-5766 when CCS is closed. 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 is an agreement between the instructor and the student. Events that transpire over the semester may require me to modify the syllabus. In the event the syllabus needs to be modified, the instructor will announce the modification via an email to the class and Carmen, and changes made to the Course Schedule will be yellow-highlighted. However, it is your responsibility to keep up with any such modifications and be aware of current policies, deadlines, etc.

Async = asynchronous content

ZOOM = synchronous ZOOM meeting

Exam = Exam administered on Carmen

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, & Activities	Assignment Due Date (All due dates are by 11:59 pm EST/EDT)
1	08/22 T	Course Introduction	Intake Survey, Kick-Off Quiz, & APA Style Quiz (Sun, 08/27)
	08/24 Th Async	APA Style	
2	08/29 T	<i>Basic Concepts: Self, Identity, and Computer Interface</i> Onorato & Turner (2004); Trepte (2006); Sundar & Marathe (2010)	Self-Introduction Video (Thu, 08/31) Research Methods Review Quiz (Sun, 09/03)
	08/31 Th Async	<i>Research Methods: Key Pointers</i>	
3	09/05 T	<i>Self-Esteem and Social Media Use</i> Forest & Wood (2012); Gonzales & Hancock (2011)	Keep up with the readings and lectures
	09/07 Th	<i>Positivity Bias on Social Media</i> Bazarova et al. (2013)	
4	09/12 T	<i>Social Comparison on Social Media</i> Hoffner (2014); Chou & Edge (2012)	Keep up with the readings and lectures
	09/14 Th	<i>Temporal Comparison on Social Media</i> Lee-Won et al. (2023)	
5	09/19 T	<i>Algorithmized Self</i> Bhandari & Bimo (2022)	Keep up with the readings and lectures
	09/21 Th	<i>Social Identity Threat and Virtuality</i> Lee-Won et al. (2017); Cheryan et al. (2011)	
6	09/26 T	Midterm Exam Review	Final Project Guidelines Quiz (Sun, 10/01)
	09/28 Th Async	Final Project Guidelines	

7	10/03 T Exam	Midterm Exam on Carmen (Opens at 9:00 am and closes at 11:59 pm)	Project Brainstorming Part 1: Posting (Thu, 10/05) Part 2: Group Feedback (Sun, 10/08)
	10/05 Th Async	Project Brainstorming: Feedback Exchange	
8	10/10 T	Avatars & Agents Lim & Reeves (2010)	Keep up with the reading and lecture
	10/12 Th	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	
9	10/17 T ZOOM	Space Survival Task (Required)	Project Proposal Part 1: Posting (Thu, 10/19) Part 2: Group Feedback (Sun, 10/22)
	10/19 Th Async	Project Proposal: Feedback Exchange	
10	10/24 T	Computers as Teammates: Reeves & Nass (1996)	Robot Roles Discussion Part 1: Posting (Thu, 10/26) Part 2: Responding (Sun, 10/29)
	10/26 Th Async	Robot Roles: Discussion	
11	10/31 T	Social Identity Dynamics in Human-Machine Relationship (1): Functions Takayama et al. (2008)	Generative AI Review Quiz (Sun, 11/05)
	11/02 Th Async	Generative AI	
12	11/07 T	Fear Against the Machines Liang & Li (2017)	Uncanny Valley Review Quiz (Sun, 11/12)
	11/09 Th Async	Uncanny Valley	
13	11/14 T	Social Identity Dynamics in Human-Machine Relationship (2): Forms Ferrari et al. (2016)	Relating to Androids Discussion Part 1: Posting (Thu, 11/16) Part 2: Responding (Sun, 11/19)
	11/16 Th Async	Relating to Androids: Discussion	
14	11/21 T ZOOM	Project Troubleshooting (Optional)	
	11/23 Th	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
15	11/28 T	Identity Dynamics in UX Design: Considering the “Other”	Project Presentation Video & Slides (Tue, 11/28) *Note the due date

	11/30 Th Async	<i>Project Presentation: Q&A</i>	Presentation Q&A Part 1: Viewer Question Posting (Thu, 11/30) Part 2: Presenter Response (Sun, 12/03)
16	12/05 T	<i>Wrapping Up & Final Exam Review</i>	Course Reflection Paper (Wed, 12/06) *Note the due date
Finals Week	12/11 M Exam	<i>Final Exam on Carmen</i> (Opens at 9:00 am and closes at 11:59 pm)	

By staying enrolled in this class, the student agrees to abide by the policies described in the syllabus.