

COMM 4555

Computer interface & human identity

School of Communication (AU2020)

Days & Times: Wed 3:00-4:50pm

In-Person Meeting Location: Hale Hall 132

Instructor: Roselyn Lee-Won, Ph.D.

Email address: lee-won.1@osu.edu

☀ **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. Please be sure to send your email to lee-won.1@osu.edu.

Phone number: 614-292-1006

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment.

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). In this course, 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

This course will be delivered in a hybrid format, with both in-person and online elements; 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

Although attendance will not be formally taken in this course, students are expected to participate in in-person or live Zoom lectures. If you are unable to attend lectures, please view the recording of the missed session within 2-3 days following the lecture 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)	80 pts	16 %
Problem Solving Paper	50 pts	10%
Course Reflection Paper	20 pts	4 %
Midterm Exam	100 pts	20%
Final Exam	140 pts	28 %
TOTAL	500 pts	100 %

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 these assignments on “Carmen/Assignments.”

Prep Quizzes

Prep quizzes, which will address readings required for the upcoming week, will be activated by the end of Thursday and will close at 11:59pm EDT/EST on the following Tuesday **prior to** the Wednesday class meeting. 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; there will be no exceptions. Find prep quizzes on “Carmen/Quizzes” or “Carmen/Assignments.”

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 dates for posting and responding to group members. Find the discussion boards on “Carmen/Discussions.”

Problem Solving Paper

Students will be presented with several problems concerning challenges posed by emerging technologies relevant to what we address in our course. Based on the ideas, concepts, and theories covered in this course, students will write a paper analyzing and solving the problems. More instructions will be made available on “Carmen/Assignments” during Week 12.

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 on “Carmen/Assignments” during Week 12.

Exams

There will be two exams (midterm and final). The exams will be administered on Carmen, proctored via Proctorio. The exams will contain true-false and multiple-choice questions. Exam guides and review sessions will be provided. Exams will only be rescheduled with a valid and documentable medical or university-approved excuse.

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.

Late Work

Prep quizzes cannot be made up, and late posts/replies for small group discussions will not receive credit. For writing assignments, late submissions will be assessed with a cumulative penalty. Students will lose 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-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

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**.

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.

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 [BuckeyeBox](#) and [Microsoft One Drive](#).
- Approach course material by thinking about the connections between readings, lectures, and assignments.
- When you have back-to-back online and in-person courses while on campus, consider using **Drop-In Spaces:** Small-capacity physically-distanced classrooms, which do not have courses scheduled in them, are being made available for students to drop-in on a short-term basis. These should not be used as long-term study spaces, but when you have back-to-back online and in-person courses, you can drop into the space for the online course session. If you use these rooms, leave all furniture in the space marked by the physical-distancing stickers. In addition, there should never be more people in these spaces than the capacities posted. In addition to physical distancing Ohio State requires masks and recommends frequent hand sanitizing, in alignment

with public health guidelines. For information on specific locations, please visit: <https://odee.osu.edu/spaces/classrooms/drop-spaces>

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](https://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](#)
- **Proctorio:**
 - Proctorio, an online proctoring tool, will be used for the final (comprehensive) exam. Proctorio offers you flexibility to take your exams at the time and in the location of your choosing. Students are required to have a webcam (USB or internal) with a microphone and a strong and stable Internet connection. During the course of an exam, Proctorio will record the testing environment, therefore students should select private spaces for the quiz/exam session where disruptions are unlikely and where recording devices can be enabled. Instructions for Proctorio use will be provided. To use Proctorio you **must be over 18 years of age**. Additionally, the tool has **limitations in its accessibility for students reliant upon screen readers and keyboard navigation. If you have concerns about using an online proctoring tool for the reasons listed above or in general, please work with your instructor to find an equivalent alternative. Additional information on academic integrity at Ohio State and recommended proctoring options are available.**
 - Proctorio offers free [24/7 student support](#) through web chat or email.
- **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 final 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
- 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.

- **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

University COVID 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. Non-compliance will result in a warning first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

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. All materials will be made available on Carmen, including lecture recordings and slides. Alternate assignments or extensions may be arranged.

Instructor illness or absence

If **the instructor** is too ill to teach the course for a period of time, the 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 and Dates	Lecture Topics & Required Readings	Assignments & Asynchronous Activities
1	Welcome and Introduction (8/26 Wednesday class meeting time)	Intake Survey (8/29 Saturday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
2	Self & Identity: Key Concepts (9/2 Wednesday class meeting time) Onorato & Turner (2004) excerpts	Prep Quiz 1 (9/1 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Self-Introduction Video (9/3 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
3	Computer Interface and Self-Esteem (9/9 Wednesday class meeting time) Gonzales & Hancock (2011); Forest & Wood (2012)	Prep Quiz 2 (9/8 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 1: Posting (9/10 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
4	Computer Interface and Self-Presentation (9/16 Wednesday class meeting time) Bazarova et al. (2013) Hoffner (2014)	Prep Quiz 3 (9/15 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 1: Replying (9/17 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
5	Computer Interface and Social Comparison (9/23 Wednesday class meeting time) Chou & Edge (2012) Meier & Schafer (2018)	Prep Quiz 4 (9/22 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 2: Posting (9/24 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
6	Computer Interface, Professional Identity, and Impression Management (9/30 Wednesday class meeting time) D'Angelo & Van Der Heide (2016)	Prep Quiz 5 (9/29 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 2: Replying (10/1 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
7	Midterm Exam Review (10/7 Wednesday class meeting time) Exam Guide	
8	Midterm Exam 10/14 (WED) 8:00am – 10/15 (THU) 11:59pm	Proctored via Proctorio
9	Social Identity and Virtual Representation (10/21 Wednesday class meeting time) Sundar & Marathe (2010) Lee-Won et al. (2017) Cheryan et al. (2011)	Prep Quiz 6 (10/20 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)

10	Autonomous Technology (10/28 Wednesday class meeting time) Takayama et al. (2008) Liang & Lee (2017)	Prep Quiz 7 (10/27 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 3: Posting (10/29 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
11	Avatars vs. Agents (11/4 Wednesday class meeting time) Lim & Reeves (2010) “Space Survival Task”	Prep Quiz 8 (11/3 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 3: Replying (11/5 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
12	11/11 No Class (Veterans Day observed)	APA Guide [asynchronous video] Problem Solving Paper & Course Reflection Paper Instructions [asynchronous video]
13	Relationship with Computers and Robots (11/18 Wednesday class meeting time) Reeves & Nass (1996) Groom et al. (2009)	Prep Quiz 9 (11/17 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 4: Posting (11/19 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
14 Thanksgiving	Computer Interface and Intergroup Hostility (11/25 Wednesday class meeting time) Levy et al. (2013) Ullmann & Tomalin (2020)	Prep Quiz 10 (11/24 Tuesday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Small Group Discussion 4: Replying (11/26 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
15 Virtual Instruction	Live Zoom Exam Review + Wrapping Up (12/2 Wednesday class meeting time) Exam Guide	Problem Solving Paper (12/3 Thursday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) Course Reflection Paper (12/6 Sunday 11:59 p.m. EDT/EST)
Final Exam	12/9 (WED) 8:00am – 12/11 (FRI) 11:59pm	Proctored via Proctorio