

Syllabus

05618/05318 Human-AI Interaction, Spring 2026

Session A:

- Time: 2-3:20 pm MW

Session B:

- Time: 12:30-1:50 pm TR

The goal of this course is to introduce ways of thinking about how Artificial Intelligence will and has impacted humans, and how we can design interactive intelligent systems that are usable and beneficial to humans, and respect human values. As students in this course, you will build a number of different interactive technologies powered by AI, gain practical experience with what impacts their usability for humans, understand the various places that humans exist in the data pipeline that drives machine learning, and learn to think both optimistically and critically of what AI systems can do and how they can and should be integrated into society.

Communication

Canvas and Slack: We will be using Canvas for all assignments and grades. We will use Slack for questions and discussions (instead of emails).

Email: If you email your instructors, you must include the substring "HAI Course - Section A" or "HAI Course - Section B" to begin a meaningful subject line and have tried to resolve the issue appropriately otherwise. For example, you should post questions about course material and homework assignments on Slack first, and then use emails only after an appropriate amount of time has passed without a response. Please use your CMU email account.

Instructors

Motahhare Eslami Email: meslami@andrew.cmu.edu

Haiyi Zhu Email: haiyiz@andrew.cmu.edu

TA Team

Section A: Yumou (James) Wei (Email: yumouw@andrew.cmu.edu)

Office Hour: Friday, 1 pm - 2 pm

Section B: Ji-Youn Jung (Email: jiyounj@andrew.cmu.edu)

Office Hour: Wednesday 4 - 5 PM

Grading

- Reading Reflections 15%
- Attendance and Participation 15%
- Assignments 1-4 40% (10% each)
- Final Project 30%

Grade Breaks

GRADUATE STUDENTS

	Bottom	Top	
A+	97	100	Exceptional Performance
A	93	96	Far Above Expectations
A-	90	92	Above Expectations
B+	87	89	Met Expectations - You Did the Work
B	83	86	Met Expectations - You Did the Work but with some Quality Issues
B-	80	82	Met Expectations - You Did the Work but with some Quality Issues
C+	77	79	Below Expectations - You Failed to Complete Some of the Work
C	73	76	...and More of the Work
C-	70	72	...and Even More of the Work
D	60	69	Failed to Complete a Significant Amount of the Work
R	0	59	Failed to Complete the Majority Amount of the Work

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Bottom Top

A	90	100	Exceptional / Far Above Expectations
B	80	89	Met Expectations - You Did the Work
C	70	79	Below Expectations - You Failed to Complete Some of the Work
D	60	69	Failed to Complete a Significant Amount of the Work
R	0	59	Failed to Complete the Majority Amount of the Work

Communication

Canvas

- Schedule, Readings, Slides, Assignments and Projects

Slack

- Please post your questions on Slack.

Late Policy

Attending class in person and submitting course deliverables on time is critical. However, we realize that things happen, and that you might sometimes not be able to turn in your assignments. To accommodate this, you will each receive 5 free late days for the assignments (not other deliverables).

Beyond those days, you receive a 5% penalty for each day late. You are welcome to budget late days as you like, for instance 3 free-day late for one assignment, 2 for another, or all 5 for one.

Please do not, under any circumstances, come to class while sick. If you are sick, please stay home and communicate with us.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and have an accommodation letter from the Disability Resources office, we encourage you to discuss your accommodations and needs with us as early in the semester as possible. We will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, we encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu.

Health & Wellness

Take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is almost always helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of self-harm, call someone immediately, day or night:

CaPS: 412-268-2922

Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226

Value Statement

It is our goal that students from all different backgrounds and perspectives are well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. Dimensions of diversity include race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. We are intentional in our aim to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity, based on these dimensions and any other visible and invisible differences not captured in this list. Indeed, in this class you will learn to approach technology design from an empathetic, human-centered perspective that directly examines and challenges bias and inequality. Your suggestions for ensuring that the class lives up to these values are encouraged and welcomed.

Academic Integrity Policies - Use of Generative AI Tools

Please review the document titled "Class Policy Regarding the Use of AI.pdf" available on Canvas.