

Paper presentation sign-up sheet

CSCI 680 · Affective Computing · William & Mary · Fall 2026 · Tue & Thu, 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., Boswell Hall 220 · Instructor: Ashley (Ye) Gao (ygao18@wm.edu)

How this works

Sign up for one or two meetings. Write your name and W&M email on the line for each meeting you take. Paper presentations are 25% of the course grade.

You are responsible for every paper listed for the meeting you sign up for. Plan on 35–40 minutes covering the problem, the method, the experiments, and the weaknesses — then facilitate roughly 30 minutes of discussion. The weaknesses section is not optional, and facilitating is part of the grade: bring questions the room cannot answer from the abstract alone.

You do not owe a reading response on the day you present. Responses are due by 9:00 a.m. for every other meeting.

Meetings 01–03 are led by the instructor to model the format, so they are not open for sign-up. Sign-ups run from meeting 04 (Tue Sep 8) through meeting 24 (Tue Nov 24) — 21 slots. December 1 and 3 are final project presentations, which are scheduled separately.

If you need to swap a slot after signing up, arrange it directly with the other student and email the instructor at least one week before the earlier of the two dates.

#	Date	Topic and paper(s)	Presenter — print name	W&M email
Unit I — Foundations: what is being measured?				
01	Thu Aug 27	Course introduction Picard, "Affective Computing," MIT Media Lab TR 321, 1995 (skim)	<i>Instructor</i>	—
02	Tue Sep 1	Can emotion be inferred from behavior? Barrett, Adolphs, Marsella, Martinez & Pollak, "Emotional Expressions Reconsidered," Psych. Science in the Public Interest, 2019	<i>Instructor</i>	—
03	Thu Sep 3	Corpora I: acted and elicited emotion Busso et al., "IEMOCAP," LRE 42(4), 2008 Cao et al., "CREMA-D," IEEE TAC 5(4), 2014	<i>Instructor</i>	—
04	Tue Sep 8	Corpora II: naturalistic and in-the-wild data Lotfian & Busso, "Building Naturalistic Emotionally Balanced Speech Corpus...", IEEE TAC 10(4), 2019 Mollahosseini, Hasani & Mahoor, "AffectNet," IEEE TAC 10(1), 2019	Jason Cooper	jcooper02@wm.edu
Unit II — Learned speech representations				
05	Thu Sep 10	Self-supervised speech representation learning Baevski, Zhou, Mohamed & Auli, "wav2vec 2.0," NeurIPS 2020	Augustine Hart	ajhart01@wm.edu
06	Tue Sep 15	Masked prediction and full-stack pretraining Hsu et al., "HuBERT," IEEE/ACM TASLP 29, 2021 Chen et al., "WavLM," IEEE JSTSP 2022	Hyo Jin Jon	hjon@wm.edu
07	Thu Sep 17	What do these representations actually encode? Yang et al., "SUPERB," Interspeech 2021	Jonathan Irwin	jirwin@wm.edu

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08	Tue Sep 22	Prompting and parameter-efficient adaptation Lester, Al-Rfou & Constant, "The Power of Scale for Parameter-Efficient Prompt Tuning," EMNLP 2021 Shi, Zhang & Gao, "Contrastive Learning for Speech Emotion Domain Generalization via Soft Prompt Tuning," Interspeech 2025		
Unit III — Audio-language models and emotion				
09	Thu Sep 24	Audio-language models I Deshmukh, Elizalde, Singh & Wang, "Pengi," NeurIPS 2023 Tang et al., "SALMONN," ICLR 2024		
10	Tue Sep 29	Audio-language models II Chu et al., "Qwen-Audio," arXiv:2311.07919, 2023 Gong, Luo, Liu, Karlinsky & Glass, "Listen, Think, and Understand," ICLR 2024		
11	Thu Oct 1	Making audio LLMs emotion-aware Du, Lu, Zhou & Gao, "Emotion-Aware Audio Large Language Models with Dual Cross-Attention and Context-Aware Instruction Tuning," Interspeech 2025		
12	Tue Oct 6	Structured prompting and low-resource affect Shi, Du, Hong & Gao, "Plug-and-Play Emotion Graphs for Compositional Prompting in Zero-Shot SER," ICASSP 2026 Du, Shi, Myerston, Lu, Zhou & Gao, "Role-Guided Annotation and Prototype-Aligned Representation Learning...", Findings of EMNLP 2025	Tejal Nair	tnair@wm.edu
<i>Thu Oct 8 — No class. Fall Break, October 8–11.</i>				
13	Tue Oct 13	Adapting at test time Wang, Shelhamer, Liu, Olshausen & Darrell, "Tent," ICLR 2021 Shi, Du, Hong & Gao, "EMO-TTA," ICASSP 2026		
Unit IV — Generating emotional speech				
14	Thu Oct 15	Neural audio codecs Zeghidour, Luebs, Omran, Skoglund & Tagliasacchi, "SoundStream," IEEE/ACM TASLP 2021 Défossez, Copet, Synnaeve & Adi, "EnCodec," arXiv:2210.13438, 2022		
15	Tue Oct 20	Codecs that preserve affect Shi, Du, Song, Hong, Zhang & Gao, "AffectCodec," Findings of ACL 2026 Borsos et al., "AudioLM," IEEE/ACM TASLP 2023	Cathy Gao	ngao@wm.edu
16	Thu Oct 22	Zero-shot text-to-speech Wang et al., "VALL-E," arXiv:2301.02111, 2023 Shen et al., "NaturalSpeech 2," ICLR 2024	Cora Snyder	cesnyder01@wm.edu
17	Tue Oct 27	Style and expressivity	Tingxuan Tang	ttang01@wm.edu

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		Li, Han, Raghavan, Mischler & Mesgarani, "StyleTTS 2," NeurIPS 2023		
18	Thu Oct 29	Aligning generative models with preferences Rafailov, Sharma, Mitchell, Manning, Ermon & Finn, "Direct Preference Optimization," NeurIPS 2023 Wallace et al., "Diffusion Model Alignment Using DPO," CVPR 2024	Siqi Lu	slu09@wm.edu
Tue Nov 3 — No class. Election Day.				
19	Thu Nov 5	Preference optimization for emotional TTS Shi, Du, Song, Hong, Zhang & Gao, "Emo-BPO," Interspeech 2026 Shi, Du, He, Hong & Gao, "Emotion-Aligned Generation in Diffusion TTS via Preference-Guided Optimization," ICASSP 2026	Ruiguo Hu	rhu06@wm.edu
Unit V — Interpretability and robustness				
20	Tue Nov 10	Opening the black box: interpretable emotion control Huben, Cunningham, Smith, Ewart & Sharkey, "Sparse Autoencoders Find Highly Interpretable Features...", ICLR 2024 Du, Shi, Lu, Zhou & Gao, "Sparse Autoencoders for Interpretable Emotion Control in TTS," ICML 2026	Ling Ding	lding@wm.edu
21	Thu Nov 12	Domain adaptation Ganin et al., "Domain-Adversarial Training of Neural Networks," JMLR 17(59), 2016 Tzeng, Hoffman, Saenko & Darrell, "Adversarial Discriminative Domain Adaptation," CVPR 2017	Siyuan Zhao	szhao06@wm.edu
22	Tue Nov 17	Distribution shift in deployed affect systems Lee, Lee, Lee & Shin, "A Simple Unified Framework for Detecting Out-of-Distribution Samples...", NeurIPS 2018 Gao, Baucom, Gordon, Rose, Wang & Stankovic, "E-ADDA," IEEE SmartComp 2023	Benjamin Tremblay	bptremblay@wm.edu
23	Thu Nov 19	Affect sensing in the wild: health deployments Gao, Salekin, Gordon, Rose, Wang & Stankovic, "Emotion Recognition Robust to Indoor Environmental Distortions...", ACM THC 2021 Koltermann, Clapham, Blackwell, Jung, Burnet, Gao, Shao et al., "Gait-Guard," IEEE/ACM CHASE 2024	Jinyan Kuang	jkuang@wm.edu
24	Tue Nov 24	Beyond speech: multimodal and physiological affect (held online) Tsai, Bai, Liang, Kolter, Morency & Salakhutdinov, "Multimodal Transformer for Unaligned Multimodal Language Sequences," ACL 2019 Mersa, Jiang, Gao, Li & Zhang, "Hierarchical Convolution Multibranch Transformer for EEG Signals," ICASSP 2026		
Thu Nov 26 — No class. Thanksgiving Break, November 25–29.				
Unit VI — Project presentations (no paper sign-ups)				
Tue Dec 1 — Final project presentations, session I. Thu Dec 3 — Final project presentations, session II.				

