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Fall 2018

# STS 359-455: Cyberpsychology

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**FALL 2017****New Jersey Institute of Technology**

Narendra Neel Khichi, Jr

Cyberpsychology: STS 359 ONLINE

451: 96736

453: 96737

455: 96738

**Location/Time:** Online**Office:** Cullimore 314**Office Hours:**

Tuesday: 7:00am-8:00am; 10:00am-1:00pm

Wednesday: by appointment

Thursday: 7:00am-8:00am; 10:00am-1:00pm

**Office Phone:** 973.642.7402**Email:** nkhichi@njit.edu**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the study of the effects of the Internet and cyberspace on the psychology of individuals and the sociology of communities and groups. Some topics covered include: online identity in the age of the app, online and internet relationships, understanding communication and interaction in cyberspace, personality types in cyberspace, transference to computers, internet addiction, cyberbullying and other types of behavior in cyberspace, online gender roles and interactions etc, digital environments, the cultural, social, and psychological impact of drones, the social-psychology of search engines, and distinguishing actions, thoughts, and behavior between the online and the offline world. We will cover current and future technologies and the impact it has on the overall meaning of being human. Some themes we will discuss, explore, and revisit are: Is there a distinction between the online world vs the offline world? How does the virtual-self compare to a traditional self? Is technology and cyberspace changing what it means to be human? How does technology and cyberspace shape our behavior, thoughts, words, and actions?

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Define and discuss the term Cyber-psychology and demonstrate the basic terminology, concepts, and principles of the discipline.
2. Identify, evaluate, and compare the major perspectives in Cyber-psychology
3. Recognize that some human behavior is motivated by the virtual world and has multiple effects
4. Discuss the ways that Cyber-psychological theories are used to assess, predict, or change human behavior
5. Discuss and demonstrate how Cyber-psychology is applied to influence and improve the lives of human beings.



**Discussion Posts:** Any post submitted AFTER the due date, even if it is one minute over, WILL NOT count. Please do not post on discussion forums after the assignment is complete. These, too, will not count. Only discussion posts submitted between the specified dates will count. No exceptions.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes must be submitted during the scheduled time they are open. No exceptions to this rule.

**Communication:** Because this is an online course, we do not meet face to face. Therefore, it is extremely important you keep in touch with me (via email or calling my office) to inform me of any issues that come up. Emailing me mid-way through the semester is not enough. If you have any specific personal issues that prevents you from participating in the course, I will need documentation from the Dean of Students. You have access to email through numerous devices. It is your responsibility to keep me informed for any reason on why you cannot/have not participated.

**I do not give extra credit.** Nor do I respond to emails or questions that ask, “Is there anything I can do to ‘get an A’ or to ‘bump up my grade a few extra points.’” Please do not attempt to send me emails of this nature. Any issue that arises that must be discussed should be handled during office hours and not via email. I will not respond to any such emails.

Students are responsible to keep track of their own grades, what work they owe, and what they are missing. Please note where an ‘A’ begins and where a ‘B+’ begins and ends. Any issue with a grade for a specific quiz must be addressed DURING OFFICE HOURS (and not via email) NO MORE than one week after the quiz, reader response, or assignment is administered. Anything issue after a week will not be considered and your grade will remain as is.

Any issue with a missed assignment must be addressed within one week after the assignment in due otherwise a “0” will be entered for the grade and will remain as is. This is the policy of the course.

Furthermore, Moodle allows me to see your online activity in regards to this course. It allows me to see what articles you read, how long you read them for, if you looked at the notes, when you opened the quizzes, and when they are closed. **Please understand that Moodle maintains a detail track record of your use and interaction with the course materials.** So I see/have/ and maintain a full transcript of your activity online in this course. Please be aware that before any conversation occurs between you and I, I will have this detailed activity report in front of me. **Please also understand that should there be any “technical” issues, I am provided and have access to detailed reports that inform me of any issues Moodle has.**

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to read and understand NJIT’s academic integrity policy. Members of the NJIT community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors.

Please visit the website: <http://www.njit.edu/academics/pdf/academic-integrity-code.pdf> and review the policy.

There is a zero tolerance policy on any and all forms of cheating.

### **Student's that require special accommodations** **Disabilities Service Policy**

Students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified and are college able will receive reasonable accommodations to support their special needs. Students must self-identify to the Disabilities Services office to qualify to receive services. NJIT is in full compliance with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

New Jersey Institute of Technology is committed to making students with disabilities full participants in its academic and other programs, services and activities through the provision of reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Student Disability Services will coordinate the provision of appropriate accommodations and/or academic adjustments on a case-by-case basis for students with disabilities who identify themselves, provide adequate documentation of their disability and need for accommodation, request services and complete appropriate forms. Appropriate accommodations are provided at no cost to the student.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dr. Phyllis Bolling, Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS), Campbell Hall, (entry level), room 205, (973) 596-3420.

### **Personal Conflicts/Issues**

Should you have any personal issues or conflicts that prevent you from participation in the online course, miss assignments, or do not log onto the course for an extended period of time- by extended period of time I define as more than two weeks- you must provide me with documentation from the Dean of Students. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to make up the work you miss. In addition, anything that requires discussion must be done during office hours. If you are not engaged with the class for weeks- simply writing me an email stating "I've been really sick and couldn't do my work" is not a viable excuse. You must see me during office hours.

### **Email**

**Please check your NJIT email regularly.** Any announcements, reminders, or notifications are sent via Moodle directly to your NJIT email account. Also note I respond to emails within 24 HOURS after it is sent. Please be patient and do not sent multiple emails with the same information within. Any email sent after 2:00pm on Fridays will be responded to Monday mornings.

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**Schedule:**

*(This schedule is subject to change without warning or prior notification)*

*(Each chapter, along with all articles posted on Moodle should be read prior to the class it is assigned)*

**September****WEEK 1: September 4<sup>th</sup> - September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017****Introductions, Hellos and Get to Knows****Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 1: What is a Critical Introduction to Social Media?

Chayko, Chapter 1: What is Superconnectedness?

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

What is social media?

What is critical thinking?

What are some critical theory approaches?

What is digital media and techno-social life?

What is sociality?

**Assignment:**

**Please review the syllabus (both text and audio).** Post any questions in the forum labeled “Syllabus Questions” by Sunday night September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you do not post any questions, then it is agreed and understood that you have read the expectations and guidelines of the class and that you will adhere to them.

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**Week 2: September 11<sup>th</sup>- September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017****Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 2: What Are Social Media and Big Data?

Chayko, Chapter 2: Creating the Internet Age.

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Web 2.0 and social media

Using social theory to understand social media

Big Data

Brief history on information and communication technology

Early online networking

Triple Revolution of the 2000s

**Assignment: Introductory Essay is due on Sunday night, September 17<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.**

(Assignments submitted after this time and date, the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.

Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 3: September 18<sup>th</sup>-September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

**Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 3: Social Media as Participatory Culture  
Chayko, Chapter 3: Inhabiting a Digital Environment

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Participation and Participatory Culture  
Online Fan Culture and Politics  
Henry Jenkins and Digital Labour  
Socialmental spaces and societies  
Online communities, networks, and networking  
The intersection of online versus offline

**Assignment: Discussion Forum #1 is due on Sunday night, September 24<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.**

Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.  
Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 4: September 25<sup>th</sup>-September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Readings:**

**Fuchs, Chapter 4: Social Media and Communication Power**  
**Chayko, Chapter 4: Sharing and Surveillance**

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Social Theory in the Information Age  
Communication Power in the Network Society  
Communication Power in the Arab Spring and the Occupy Movement  
Crowdsourcing  
Horizontal and Vertical Surveillance  
Liking, Following, Being Liked, and Followed

**Assignment: QUIZ #1 (on the content from Week 1, 2, and 3) due on October 1<sup>st</sup> @1159pm**

Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.  
Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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***October***

**Week 5: October 2, 2017-October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Readings:**

**Fuchs, Chapter 5: The Power and Political Economy of Social Media**  
**Chayko: Chapter 5: Global Impacts and Inequalities**

**Topics/Issues we will cover:**

Capital Accumulation  
Free Labour and Slave Labour  
Globalization and Technology  
Cultural Divides  
Social Movements  
Citizen Journalism

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**Week 6: October 9, 2017-October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 6: Google: Good or Evil Search Engine  
Chayko: Chapter 6: Techno-Socialization of the Self

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Socialization, Self, and Identity.  
Development and Performance of the Self  
Growing Up Online and Offline  
Socialization Through Adulthood

**Assignment: Discussion Forum #2 is due on Sunday night, October 15<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.**  
Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.  
Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 7: October 16<sup>th</sup> - October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Readings**

**Fuchs, Chapter 7: Facebook: Surveillance in the Age of Edward Snowden**  
**Chayko, Chapter 7: Friending, Dating, and Relating**

**Topics/Question/Issues we will cover:**

The Notion of Privacy  
Facebook and Ideology  
Making Digital Connections  
The Lifespan of Digital Relationships  
Trust and Social Support

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**Week 8: October 23<sup>rd</sup>-October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**



**Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 8: Twitter and Democracy: A New Public Sphere

Chayko, Chapter 8: The Techno-Social Institutions

**Topics/Issues we will cover:**

Habermas

The Public Sphere

Political and Uncivil Communication on Twitter

The Institutional Heart: The Family

Health, Religion, Work, and Commerce

The Media

**Quiz #2 (based on the material from Weeks 4, 5, 6, and 7) is due Sunday night, October 29<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.** Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50. Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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*November***Week 9: October 30<sup>th</sup>-November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017****Readings:**

Fuchs, Chapter 9: Weibo: Power, Ideology, and Social Struggles in Chinese Capitalism

Chayko, Chapter 9: More Benefits and Hazards of 24/7 Superconnectedness

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Weibo

Constant Availability

Multitasking and the Attention Span

Being Plugged in...to Society

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**Week 10: November 6<sup>th</sup>-November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017****Readings**

Fuchs, Chapter 10: Airbnb and Uber: The Political Economy of Online Sharing Platforms

Fuchs, Chapter 11: Wikipedia: A New Democratic Form of Collaborative Work and Production?

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

The Pay per Service Sharing Model

The Sharing Economy

The Communist Ideas

Communication and Communism

**Assignment: Discussion Forum #3 is due on Sunday night, November 12<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.**  
Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.  
Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 11: November 13<sup>th</sup>-November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Fuchs, Chapter 12: Conclusion: Social Media and its Alternatives- Towards a Truly Social Media

Chayko, Chapter 10: Our Superconnected Future

**Topics/Questions/Issues we will cover:**

Social media and reality

Social media and alternatives

New and emerging technologies

The techno-social path ahead

**QUIZ #3 (content based on Week 8, 9, and 10) is due on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> @1159pm.**  
Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.  
Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 12: November 20<sup>th</sup>-November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK!!! ENJOY! RELAX AND HAVE FUN!**

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*December*

**Week 13: November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**Wrapping up the semester and review for Quiz #4.**

**Assignment: Concluding Essay due on Sunday night, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @1159pm.**

(Assignments submitted after this time and date the grade is immediately dropped to a 50.

Assignments submitted after one full week of the due day the grade is a 0).

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**Week 14: December 4<sup>th</sup>-December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Assignment: Quiz #4 opens on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and closes on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @1159pm** (This quiz MUST BE submitted by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @1159pm. There are no

make ups available or extra time provided. If the quiz is not completed by the due date, it will result in an automatic 0 for your Quiz #4 grade. )

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### **Week 15: December 11<sup>th</sup>- December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **Quiz #4 closes on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @1159pm.**

(This quiz MUST BE submitted by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @1159pm. There are no make ups available or extra time provided. If the quiz is not completed by the due date, it will result in an automatic 0 for your Quiz #4 grade. )

Final Exams Begin on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Final Exams End on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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#### **Online Class Expectations and Procedures:**

Because of the rapid pace of the course and students working remotely and independently from home, the expectations are the same, if not higher, than a class held on campus in real time. Please keep in mind that we DO NOT MEET FACE TO FACE. However, you are always welcome to schedule an appointment with me or come see me in my office. Because it is an online class, the expectations for you are GREATER because of your independent work responsibility with this class.

#### **(4) Quizzes:**

There are **FOUR** timed quizzes on Moodle this semester. Format and type will vary.

**Quizzes #1, #2, and #3** open Monday morning @9am the week they are assigned and close Sunday 1159pm at the end of that of that week.

For Quizzes #1, #2, and #3, make ups are allowed **up to one week** past the official due date and must be approved by the instructor. The highest grade earned for a make-up within a week is a 50. A quiz not made up a week after the official due date will result in a 0.

**For Quiz #4 there is no make up option available. No questions, discussion, or negotiations will be held regarding my policy on quizzes.**

#### **(3) Discussion Forums**

There are three (3) discussion forums this semester.

#### **(1) Introduction Essay Assignment**

There is one Introduction assignment this semester.

### **(1) Conclusion Essay Assignment**

There is one Conclusion assignment this semester.

#### Discussion Forums

You will have 3-graded discussion questions based on the readings and links that I post on Moodle. The discussion assignments ask you to post TWICE. The first post is your initial comments/thoughts/ideas regarding the question. It should be approximately 300 words. The second reply should be in response to a student in the forum who has not been responded to. Your reply should be at least 100 words.

PLEASE NOTE: I do not accept late posts on the forum. The two posts MUST BE submitted during the time and date the assignment states. There are no exceptions to this rule.

In addition, be respectful and courteous to other people's opinions that may differ from yours while on the discussion board. Any post that appears to be rude, mean, threatening, or disrespectful will be immediately deleted and you will receive a "0" for the assignment. Keep in mind, it is okay to disagree. In fact, it is healthy and encouraged. But the disagreement must be discussed in an adult manner. Because you are hidden behind a computer screen, makes you even more accountable for your words, thoughts, and what you put out in the cyberworld.

In addition, if a post appears that you feel I should address, you find offensive, or would like me to comment on, please email me separately and I will. Sometimes things can easily be taken out of context on discussion forums and it takes an unbiased reader/commenter to bring understanding to both sides.

#### Essay Grading Rubrics:

**Below is a breakdown of how the introductory and concluding essay assignment are graded. Should you wish to further discuss your grade OR get more detailed and constructive feedback, please see me during office hours:**

96-99: The paper provides more than 3 examples, provides thoughtful and detailed analysis. The paper ties in both the student's views and supports those views the sources and data from the course content. The paper is structured and organized well, there is a strong fluid writing style, and there is an originality in style and presentation. There is a clear connection and relationship between the three examples.

90-95. The paper provides three examples, provides thoughtful and detailed analysis. The paper ties in some student's views and supports those views with some of the sources and data from the course content. The paper has good structure and organization with some minor issues in writing style. The paper does not take any creative or original risks. There is somewhat of a relationship between the examples.

85-89. The paper provides three examples, but is weak on the analysis. It ties in very little of the student's views and provides minimal support from the sources and the data. Some structural and organizational issues are present. The paper meets the bare minimum requirements of the assignment. It is unclear if a relationship exists between the examples and the topics.

75-84. The paper provides less than three examples, is weak on analysis, has issues in structure and organization. There is no connection between examples and/or topics.

60-75. The paper is rushed and does not follow directions. There is an attempt at organization but it is sloppy. There is no clear focus, there is no relationship among the topics. It lacks analysis.

50. This paper does not meet the requirements of the course and is unacceptable.

0. Paper was not submitted.

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This will be a fun, interesting course and an overall strong learning experience for you. Should you have any questions or any difficulty with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. I look forward to working with you all.

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