

Fall 2020

## STS 359-H01: Cyberpsychology

Julie Ancis

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STS 359: Cyberpsychology

Honors

94971

Instructor: Dr. Julie Ancis

September 1, 2020-December 21, 2020

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am-10:20 am

Location: Online

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 and By Appointment

E-mail: [ira49@njit.edu](mailto:ira49@njit.edu)

STS 359: Cyberpsychology is an introduction to the study of the psychological processes related to, and underlying, all aspects and features of technologically interconnected human behavior. This includes the effects of the internet and cyberspace on individuals and groups as well as the impact of human beings on cyberspace. This course will cover key themes and trends in the field of cyberpsychology such as online persona, social media use and psychological functioning, internet addiction, gaming, VR and AI applications, fake news and disinformation, and cybersecurity. In addition, future directions in cyberpsychology as it relates to ethics, clinical work, age and disability, education and training, and research are discussed.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Understand key themes and trends in the field of cyberpsychology.
- Explore different psychological theories and perspectives to understand the ways in which individuals and groups use contemporary internet-based information and communication technologies.
- Understand how online environments and processes impact human behavior including affect and cognition.
- Develop an understanding and awareness of cyberpsychology terms, concepts, and theories.
- Understand how statistical data can relate to and provide empirical evidence for the relationship between cyberspace and human behavior.
- Develop critical thinking skills about issues in the field of cyberpsychology and contextualize them in terms of existing psychology theories.
- Understand the clinical and ethical implications of cyberpsychology research and findings.

#### Academic Integrity:

***Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.***

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)

### Email

Please check your NJIT email regularly. Any announcements, reminders, or notifications are sent via Canvas directly to your NJIT email account.

### Readings:

Students will be responsible for reading articles posted on the syllabus. Assigned readings should be completed by the day listed on the syllabus for lectures and discussion.

1. Tues, Sept 1 Course Orientation

2. Thurs Sept 3 Cyberpsychology: An Overview

Ancis (in Press)

Srivastava, L. (2005). Mobile phones and the evolution of social behaviour. *Behaviour & Information Technology*, 24(2), 111–129. doi:10.1080/01449290512331321910

2. Tues, Sept.8 The Online Self

Attrill-Smith (2019). The Online Self. In the Oxford Handbook. (S1)

Suler, J. R. (2004). The online disinhibition effect. *CyberPsychology and Behavior*. 7(3), 321-326. doi:10.1089/1094931041291295 (S2)

3. Thurs Sept 10 Impression Management

Fullwood (2019). Impression Management and Self-Presentation Online. In the Oxford Handbook. (S3)

4. Tues Sept. 15

Case Study: Black Mirror (Nose Dive)

5. Thurs Sept.17 Personality and Online Behavior

Gil de Zuniga et al. (2017) (S4)

6. Tues Sept.22 Social Media Use and Well-Being

Vahedi & Saiphoo (2017) (S5)

7. Thurs Sept.24 Social Media Use and Well-Being

Quinn (2019). In the Oxford Handbook. (S6)

8. Tues Sept. 29 Social Media Use and the Brain

Carr (2011). Prologue and Chapter 1.

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Shallows\\_What\\_the\\_Internet\\_Is\\_Doing/1KayoVI3OTMC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=the+shallows&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Shallows_What_the_Internet_Is_Doing/1KayoVI3OTMC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=the+shallows&printsec=frontcover) (S7)

9. Thurs Oct 1

Quiz I

10. Tues Oct.6

Internet and Addiction

Wallace, 2016. The Internet as A Time Sink. Chapter 11 in The Psychology of the Internet.

Gentile et al. (2017)

11. Thurs Oct. 8 Internet Behavior as Disorder

Featured Speaker: Dustyn Leff

12. Tues Oct 13 Online Dating

Duggan & Smith (2013)

13. Thurs Oct.15 Virtual Reality

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Tawa

Skip Rizzo

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQFHdb5I\\_QU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQFHdb5I_QU)

Carl, E., Stein, A., T., Levihn-Coon, A., Pogue, J. R., Rothbaum, B., Emmelkamp, P., Asmundson, G. J. G., Carlbring, P., Powers, M. B. (2019). Virtual reality exposure therapy for anxiety and related disorders: A meta-analysis (S11)

14. Tues Oct. 20 Artificial Intelligence

David, D., Matu, S-A, & David, O. A. (2014). Robot-based psychotherapy: Concepts development, state of the art, and new directions. *International Journal of Cognitive Therapy*, 7(2), 192-210. (S12)

Costescu, C. A., Vanderborght, B., & David, D. O. (2014). The effects of robot-enhanced psychotherapy: A meta-analysis. *Review of General Psychology*, 18(2), 127–136. <https://doi.org/10.1037/gpr0000007> (S13)

15. Thurs Oct 22 Digital Divide

Ungraded Practice Quiz with Respondus.

UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education. (2011, September). *Digital Natives: How Do They Learn? How to Teach Them?* UNESCO [https://lite.unesco.org/files/policy\\_briefs/pdf/en/digital\\_natives.pdf](https://lite.unesco.org/files/policy_briefs/pdf/en/digital_natives.pdf) (S14)

Roberts, A., Ogunwole, S., Blakeslee, L., & Rabe, M. (2018, October). *A snapshot of the fast-growing U.S. older population. Most older Adults live in households with computer and internet access.* United States Census Bureau. (S15)

Smith, A. (2014). Older adults and internet use. *Washington, DC: Pew Research Center.*

16. Tues Oct 27

Quiz 2

17. Thurs Oct 29 Children and Teen’s Use of Digital Technology

American Psychological Association (2019). Digital guidelines: Promoting health technology use for children. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/digital-guidelines> (S16)

18. Tues Nov 3 Gaming

American Psychological Association (2020). APA resolution on violent video games: February 2020 Revision to the 2015 Resolution. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-violent-video-games.pdf> (S17)

19. Thurs Nov. 5 Telehealth/Telepsychology

Novotney, A. (2017, February). *A growing wave of online therapy.* 48(2). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/02/online-therapy> (S18)

Cooper, Campbell, & Barnwell (2019) (S19)

Maheu, M. M., Pulier, M. L., McMenamin, J. P., & Posen, L. (2012). Future of telepsychology, telehealth, and various technologies in psychological research and practice. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0029458> (S20)

20. Thurs Nov 10 Telepsychology

Dr. Corinne Datchi

Apps

Wasil, A. R., Venturo-Conerly, K. E., Shingleton, R. M., & Weisz, J. R. (2019). A review of popular smartphone apps for depression and anxiety: Assessing the inclusion of evidence-based content. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, *123*, 103498. (S21)

21. Tues Nov 12 Cyberbullying

Barlett, C. P., Gentile, D. A., & Chew, C. (2016). Predicting cyberbullying from anonymity. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*, *5*(2), 171-180. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000055>. (S23)

Kowalski, R. M., Giumetti, G. W., Schroeder, A. N., & Lattanner, M. R. (2014). Bullying in the digital age: A critical review and meta-analysis of cyberbullying research among youth. *Psychological Bulletin*, *140*(4), 1073–1137. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0035618> (S24)

Espelage, D. L., & Hong, J. S. (2017). Cyberbullying prevention and intervention efforts: Current knowledge and future directions. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, *62*(6), 374–380. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0706743716684793> (S25)

22. Thurs Nov 17 Online Aggression

Featured Speaker: Dr. Brian Keum

23. Thurs Nov 19 Cybercrime and Cybersecurity

Burgard, A., & Schlembach, C. (2013). Frames of fraud: A qualitative analysis of the structure and process of victimization on the internet. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, *7*(2), 112-124. (S26)

McCormac, A., Zwaans, T., Parsons, K., Dragana, C., Butavicius, M., Pattison, M. (2017). Individual differences and information security awareness. *Computers in Human Behavior*, *69*, 151-156. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2016.11.065> (S27)

Wiederhold, B. K. (2014). The role of psychology in enhancing cybersecurity. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, *17*(3), 131–132. <https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2014.1502> (S28)

24. Tues Nov 24 Technical Traces

Settanni et al. (2018)

Case Study

25. Thurs Nov 26 Echo Chambers and Social Media

Bessi, A. (2016). Personality traits and echo chambers on Facebook. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 65, 319-324. (S29)

26. Thurs Dec 1 Fake News and Disinformation

Starbird, K., Spiro, E. S., & Koltai, K. (June 25, 2020). Misinformation, crisis, and public health-Reviewing the literature. *Mediawell*. (S30)

<https://mediawell.ssrc.org/literature-reviews/misinformation-crisis-and-public-health/versions/v1-0/>

27. Tues Dec 8 Machine Bias

Angwin, J., Larson, J., Mattu, S., & Kirchner, L. (2016, May). Machine Bias. *ProPublica*. Retrieved from <https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing>

28. Tues Dec 10 Ethical Considerations

Kraut, R. et al. (2004). Psychological research online: Report of Board of Scientific Affairs' Advisory Group on the Conduct of Research on the Internet. *American Psychologist*, 59(2), 105-117. <https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2004-11287-003.pdf>

29. Thurs Dec 15

Ethical Considerations

Shapiro, A. (2017). Reform predictive policing. *Nature*, 541, 458-460.

Amichai-Hamburger (2017). How can we use the internet to create a better world. In Y. Amichai-Hamburger (Ed.). *Internet Psychology: The Basics*. Routledge.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/541458a.pdf>

30. Tues Dec 17

Review and Process

Final Exam Period

Exam III

Attendance and Participation: 20 points. Students are expected to attend every class on time. It is an essential component for success. In the event you must miss a class, come late or leave early, prior notice with the instructor is required.

Participation will involve engagement in class discussions, break-out exercises and in class case study assignments.

Cyberpsychology Presentation: 20 points. Using the assigned course reading to which you have been assigned (check Spreadsheet in Canvas Files), conduct a 10 minute class presentation.

Include slides summarizing these topics:

- What are the key learning points and takeaways?
- What are any limitations or challenges of the research or current state of affairs?
- What are the research and/or applied implications or future directions?

Your presentation will be scheduled during the lecture assigned and must be limited to 10 minutes.

Upload your presentation (as PPT or PDF) to Canvas get credit for this assignment.

Grading criteria:

Clarity of presentation

Demonstrated attention to main points of the reading.

Thoughtful discussion of implications or future directions.

Three Exams: 20 points each (60 points total) There are 3 timed non-cumulative Exams.

Respondus will be used for proctoring. Please see video.

<https://web.respondus.com/lockdownbrowser-student-video/>

Grading Scale:

The grade you receive in this course will be based on a tally of your scores on attendance and participation, presentation, and exams. Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

>89.5 A

89.4-86.5 B

79.4-75.5 C+

75.4-65.5 C

65.4-55.5=D

<55.4

Assignment 1 Due Wednesday, February 12th. Cyberpsychology Research Article For your first assignment, search for any article about cyberpsychology (feel free to use Google Scholar or the NJIT library database- please print and include the full article with your submission). Topics can include whatever you like (e.g., social media, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, gaming, etc.).



What are the key points in the article? Is there any information that particularly surprised you? What are the implications of this research?

Assignment 3 Due Monday, March 23rd. Nosedive (Black Mirror episode) Describe your reactions to this episode from Black Mirror. What are the psychological effects of how we rate each other in social media, as in the number of likes or followers a person has in social media? Striking Vipers (Black Mirror episode) Write about your reactions to this episode from Black Mirror. What are your thoughts about how virtual environments might be good or bad for us? What are the ethical boundaries that exist when it comes to face-to-face versus online/virtual interactions?

### Helpful Links

#### [Office of Academic Advising](#)

The office currently advises and tracks the retention of first year undergraduate students. OAA Advisors also advise undergraduate incoming transfer students, prior to their start at NJIT, in designated colleges and majors (see our transfer student tab), as well as students who may need assistance with deciding on a major.

#### **Mission Statement**

Through meaningful and collaborative relationships with advisors, students are able to effectively create and follow sound curriculum plans that are consistent with their personal values, interests, goals, and career paths.

[Accessibility Resources & Service Accommodations](#) The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services works in partnership with administrators, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and support services for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and visiting students with disabilities who have provided our office with medical documentation to receive services. We strive to promote an inclusive environment that encompasses advocacy and access to all campus resources.

#### [The Writing Center](#)

The NJIT Writing Center is here to help with your written assignments as well as class presentations. Our Writing Consultants, Graduate Consultants and Peer Consultants can work with you on your writing from beginning to end.

**FOR FALL SEMESTER 2020, ALL WRITING CENTER APPOINTMENTS WILL BE HELD ONLINE.**

**AUDIOVISUAL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD VIA GOOGLEDPCS AND GOOGLE HANGOUTS.\***

Our new scheduling system, NAVIGATE, can be reached via NJIT Pipeline or [URL TK] -- we thank you for your patience as we make the transition.

We will resume face-to-face sessions in CKB G17 at a later date, when it is deemed safe to do so.

Please contact Dr. Catherine Siemann with any questions: [siemann@njit.edu](mailto:siemann@njit.edu)