New Jersey Institute of Technology

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Humanities Syllabi

NJIT Syllabi

Fall 2023

# PSY-201 (001): Orientation to Psychology as a Behavioral Science

Julia Hyland-Bruno

## PSY 201: Orientation to Psychology as a Behavioral Science
Mon/Wed 1-2:20pm, Central King Building 126

SYLLABUS DRAFT 9/12/23 – SUBJECT TO REVISION

**Instructor:** Dr. Julia Hyland Bruno
**Contact:** [julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu](mailto:julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu)
**Office hour:** Tues 10-11am or by appointment, Cullimore 313

## PREREQUISITES

None, although enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Cyberpsychology program is strongly encouraged.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will serve as an orientation to psychology in general and cyberpsychology in particular. Through guest lectures, reflective writing, seminar-style discussions, and independent and group assignments, students will investigate the nature of behavioral science, the societal importance of cyberpsychology, and career opportunities in the field.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss major issues and questions in cyberpsychology
- Understand the different contexts in which cyberpsychology and behavioral science are vital at NJIT
- Critically evaluate cyberpsychological claims
- Envision possible career paths in cyberpsychology and behavioral science
- Articulate personal interests in cyberpsychology as well as educational and professional goals
- Identify with a community of other cyberpsychology-oriented students.

## COURSE MATERIALS

Assigned readings and other course materials will be made available through Canvas.


## COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements are worth the following percentages of your final grade:

- *Cyberpsychological explorations* guest speaker portfolio: 40%
    - Presentation write-ups: 35%
    - Respondent duties: 5%
- Attendance, preparation and participation (including in-class assignments): 25%
- Exams: 20%
    - Midterm: 10%
    - Final: 10%
- Debates: 15%


*Attendance is required.*


Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

| Percentage | Letter (description) |
| --- | --- |
| 90 and above | A (superior) |
| 85 – 89 | B+ (excellent) |
| 80 – 84 | B (very good) |
| 75 – 79 | C+ (good) |
| 70 – 74 | C (acceptable) |
| 60 – 69 | D (minimum) |
| 59 and below | F (inadequate) |


*Any extenuating circumstances that could interfere with your ability to complete the requirements for this course must be taken to the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will discuss your situation with you, assess any relevant documentation, and make the determination of whether any special accommodations will be granted (e.g., late withdrawal from the course, request for an extension, request for an Incomplete, etc.).*


## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

NJIT requires me to include this language:

*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.*

**ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS/COUNSELING SERVICES**

If you anticipate any issues related to the format or materials of this course, or if you would like to discuss any accommodations that might be helpful, please contact me at the start of the semester. If you have a documented disability, or if you think you might have a disability, you should also be in touch with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), either to request an official accommodation or to discuss requesting one. More information about OARS is available here: https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/.

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) provides a number of confidential resources for any student interested in seeking help with personal issues, emotional concerns, or stress. Visit https://www.njit.edu/counseling/ to learn more.

**SCHEDULE**

| DATE | TOPIC | GUEST SPEAKER(S) | ASSIGNMENT |
|------|-------|------------------|------------|
| 9/6 | Introduction | | |
| 9/11 | Cyberpsych explorations | Daphne Soares<br>Yvette Wohn | |
| 9/13 | Cyberpsych explorations | Amy K. Hoover<br>Heidi Young | • Soares write-up<br>• Wohn write-up |

| DATE | TOPIC | GUEST SPEAKER(S) | ASSIGNMENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/18 | Library exercise | | • Hoover write-up<br>• Young write-up |
| 9/20 | Cyberpsych explorations | David Rothenberg | • Library exercise |
| 9/25 | Journal club | | • Rothenberg write-up |
| 9/27 | Cyberpsych explorations | Gareth Russell | |
| 10/2 | Behavioral observation | | • Russell write-up |
| 10/4 | Cyberpsych explorations | Charles Brooks | |
| 10/9 | Cyberpsych explorations | Lillian Ribeiro<br>Zackary Kellett | • Brooks write-up |
| 10/11 | Cyberpsych explorations | Andrew Klobucar | • Ribeiro write-up<br>• Kellett write-up |
| 10/16 | Measuring behavior | | • Klobucar write-up |
| 10/18 | Cyberpsych explorations | | • Ethogram exercise |
| 10/23 | Midterm exam | | |
| 10/25 | Cyberpsych explorations | Niccolò Pescetelli | |
| 10/30 | Cyberpsych explorations | Maurie Cohen<br>John Wolf | • Pescetelli write-up<br>• Cohen readings |
| 11/1 | Cyberpsych explorations | | • Cohen write-up<br>• Wolf write-up |
| 11/6 | Journal club | | |
| 11/8 | Cyberpsych explorations | Nancy Steffen-Fluhr | |
| 11/13 | Psychological research methods | | • Steffen-Fluhr write-up |
| 11/15 | Cyberpsych explorations | Simon Garnier | |
| 11/20 | Cyberpsych explorations | Eugene Cho Snyder | • Garnier write-up |
| 11/22 | NO CLASS [Friday Schedule] | | |
| 11/27 | Debate preparation | | • Snyder write-up |
| 11/29 | Cyberpsych explorations | Theresa Hunt | |
| 12/4 | AI Ethics | | • Hunt write-up |
| 12/6 | Cyberpsych explorations | Yao Sun | |
| 12/11 | Debate #1 | | • Sun write-up |
| 12/13 | Debate #2 | | |
| TBA | Final exam | | |