New Jersey Institute of Technology

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Fall 2023

PSY-359 (001-003): Foundations of Cyberpsychology

Laura Pople

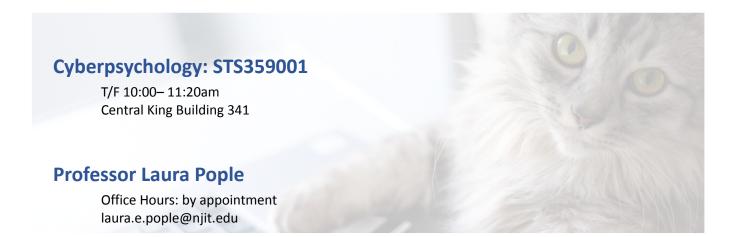Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi

Cyberpsychology: STS359001

T/F 10:00– 11:20am
Central King Building 341

Professor Laura Pople

Office Hours: by appointment
laura.e.pople@njit.edu

Course Description

Foundations of Cyberpsychology is an introduction to the study of the bi-directional effects of the internet, cyberspace, and other media on the psychology of individuals and groups. In this course, we will frame our discussions about cyberpsychology upon a foundation of the basic tenets of psychology. This will give you the context to explore the similarities and differences between the cyberworld and the real world You will analyze and understand actual online socal dynamics, interactions, information processing and the implications to human behavior of an environment in which human's engagement continues to morph in response to technological advances and in turn, those technological advances are informed by the impact humans have with the technology they engage with.

Course Attendance: REQUIRED

During the first week of class you will join a work group that you will participate in each class session. Your group will be expected to submit work product after each session that will be graded. As a consequence, your grade for the class is heavily influenced by the in-class activities your group works on.

Expectations for Technology Use

In this class, you are expected to collaborate on group assignments as part of the in-class experience. This group work will involve researching topics, creating materials, and building presentations. For all these activities, you will be encouraged to bring and use your electronic devices

Course Learning Objectives

Once you have completed this course, you can expect to be able to:

- Recognize the relevance of cyberpsychology in your life
- Compare and contrast the psychological underpinnings of the real world and the cyberworld
- Demonstrate the applied nature of cyberpsychology
- Critically evaluate statements made about cyber events
- Explain how scientific research addresses questions about behavior in the real world and the cyberworld
- Apply the scientific method to observations about phenomena in the cyberworld
- Effectively use the tools of cyberland
- Enhance your collaboration skills

Course Technology

- This course requires students to have access to a Windows 10 PC or Mac computer (desktop or laptop) with Wi-Fi connectivity.
- You should come to class prepared to use a device – a phone, tablet, or laptop - to access the web for class group work.
- We will use Canvas as a base for this course. Specifically, each week you will be responsible for completing a module which will include any of the following: readings, videos, written assignments, quizzes and other activities.

Required Course Materials

The following materials are required for this course.

- Weekly postings on Canvas for each module

Course Schedule

Week 1: Cyberpsychology's Roots
Week 2: The Research Behind Cyberpsychology
Week 3: Contemporary Psychology
Week 4: Information Processing, Attention, and Higher Order Cognitive Processes
Week 5: Social Cognition: Self, Identity, Impression Management, and Emotions
Week 6: Attitudes and Social Influence
Week 7: Prosocial Relationships, Online Relationships, and Online Groups
Week 8: Dating and Sexual Behavior
Week 9: Midterm Activity
Week 10: Our Developing Selves
Week 11: Cheers to Your Health
Week 12: How and Where Words Can Take Us
Week 13: The Darker Side of the Cyberworld
Week 14: Esports and Online Gaming
Week 15: Final Project

Grading Rubrics

Written Assignment Grading Criteria	% of points for each assignment item	Example for 20-point assignment	Example for 50-point assignment
Assignment met and facts or concepts covered ● The/each question was fully answered. ● The student addressed key points for the assignment correctly. ● The assignments' instructions were followed.	**40%**	8 pts possible	20 pts possible
Logic, organization, depth of response, and references ● The student communicated his/her response in a thoughtful and thorough manner. ● Information was presented logically. ● The response was supported by appropriate references (as needed).	**20%**	4 pts possible	10 pts possible

Writing, grammar, and formatting ● Student used clear, concise, and error-free writing. ● Student adhered to rules of grammar usage, spelling, and punctuation. ● Student used correct APA formatting of citations.	**20%**	4 pts possible	10 pts possible
Timeliness ● Assignments turned in late but within a week of the due date are penalized 10%. ● Assignments turned in more than a week after the due date but within four weeks of the due date are penalized 20%. ● Assignments turned in more than a month after they are due but no later than the last class period are penalized 50%	**20%**	4 pts possible	10 pts possible

Course Grading Criteria

A: 91-100
B+: 87-89
B: 80-86
C+: 77-79
C: 70-76
D: 60-69
F: 0-59

POLICIES

University Policy on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals   of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) 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. (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Please note that it is the instructor's 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.