PSYC 6300-001: Seminar (Cyberpsychology)
Summer 1 2023 (June 5 – July 7)

Instructor Information

Instructor(s)
Amandeep S. Dhaliwal, Ph.D.

Office Number
Life Science 519

Office Telephone Number
817-272-2281

Email Address
Amandeep.dhaliwal@uta.edu

Faculty Profile
https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/faculty

Office Hours
Monday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm; Tuesday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Course Information

Section Information
PSYC-4359-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings
MWFTh 8am – 10:00am
Location: LS101, still check MyMav before the first day of class.

Description of Course Content
Advent of internet has both enhanced and abated the human experience in ways that was unimaginable 2-3 decades ago. Cyberpsychology is a branch of psychology that studies the way people interact with technology and how technological tools effect the way people feel, think, and behave both online and offline. Psychological factors such as perception, learning, motivation, and belief systems are prone to manipulation, made easier with advent of the internet. Course topics include persuasion research, associative learning, consumer behavior, emotional and motivational strategies, social media, mental health, personality profiles, cybersecurity, social engineering, and political activism. Cyber psychology course is designed to introduce psychological vulnerabilities to technologically savvy students with hopes of aspiring them to invent technologies that improve the quality of life.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Analyze and discuss the areas of psychological research that show human vulnerability to influences by messages delivered through various online media.
2. Demonstrate a general understanding of the techniques used to harvest, store, analyze and sell personal data.
3. Analyze the health and ethics related to exploitation by corporations of consumer.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the economical models commonly used by internet providers.
5. Discuss the political rationale and psychological research aimed at influencing policies through various internet-based manipulation.
**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**


Plus each student will receive a draft textbook free of charge. The textbook is under revision, as new research is integrated. Peer-reviewed articles relevant for each topic to be covered in the course. The order, content, and assignments presented below are subject to change.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations**

1. Students will write a brief reflection of the content covered during the week. Reflection should demonstrate thorough understanding of the topics covered including citations from peer-reviewed articles. Reflection should be between 500-700 words, font size 12, single or double spaced.

2. Two multiple choice exams.

**Technology Requirements**

Electronic devices (phone, laptop, tablet) will be heavily used in the seminar. Must be able to access Canvas.

**Grading Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekly Reflection:</strong></td>
<td>5 x 10 pts = 50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exams:</strong></td>
<td>2 x 50 pts = 100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance:</strong></td>
<td>5 x 10 pts = 50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, F = 59% and below

**Grade Grievances**

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances at [https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form](https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form)

As instructor of this course, I reserve the right to change topics and due dates as deemed necessary to optimize the learning experience.
### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-Jun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Evolutionary adaptations in the digital world</td>
<td>Read: Chap 3, 4, 5 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Jun</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Internet Economics &amp; e-commerce</td>
<td>Read: Chap 2, 13 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Jun</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Cognitive biases and Motivation in digital environment</td>
<td>Read: Chap 10, 11 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-Jun</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Emotion and Ethics in the digital environment</td>
<td>Read: Chap 9, 17 (Abadzi Draft book); weekly ref 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-Jun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Applied persuasion strategies</td>
<td>Read: Chap 12 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Jun</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Online persona and offline interactions</td>
<td>Read: Chap 14 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Policy priming- political psychology and opinion change</td>
<td>Read: Chap 15 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Jun</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Exam Review</td>
<td>Study; weekly ref 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Juneteenth Holiday</td>
<td>study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Review plus MIDTERM EXAM</td>
<td>rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-Jun</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Cyberpsychology and the Brain (Info session)</td>
<td>Read: Chap 4 (Parsons, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Jun</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Brain on the internet</td>
<td>Read: Chap 5, 6 (Parsons, 2017); weekly ref 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Jun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Socially networked brain and Multitaskers</td>
<td>Read: Chap 7 (Parsons, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Jun</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Cyberaddictions</td>
<td>Read: Chap 11 (Parsons, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Jun</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Cyberpsychology of Videogames</td>
<td>Read: Chap 14 (Parsons, 2017); weekly ref 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Jul</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>NeuroIS: Cybersecurity and the Brain</td>
<td>Read: Chap 18 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-Jul</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Research Synthesis and trends</td>
<td>Read: Chap 18 (Abadzi Draft book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Jul</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Research Synthesis and trends</td>
<td>study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Jul</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Final Review</td>
<td>Study; weekly ref 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Jul</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>done!</td>
</tr>
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### Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the Institutional Information page (https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
Face Covering Policy
While the use of face coverings on campus is no longer mandatory, all students and instructional staff are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while they are on campus. This is particularly true inside buildings and within classrooms and labs where social distancing is not possible due to limited space. If a student needs accommodations to ensure social distancing in the classroom due to being at high risk they are encouraged to work directly with the Student Access and Resource Center to assist in these accommodations. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center’s front desk or in their department.

Attendance
At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, class attendance is mandatory unless a prior engagement is established. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester and only students in attendance will receive the points. The U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients’ attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors should be prepared to report the last date of attendance as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty must report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence of academic engagement such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance.

Lab Safety Training

Academic Success Center
The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: Academic Success Center. To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this form.

Emergency Phone Numbers
In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381
Library Information

Research or General Library Help
Ask for Help
- Academic Plaza Consultation Services (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
- Research Coaches (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources
- Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- Subject and Course Research Guides (libguides.uta.edu)
- Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- Course Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#/course_reserves)
- Study Room Reservations (openroom.uta.edu/)

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