PSYC 6300: Seminar in Psychology (CyberBehavior)
Summer 2022- Session 1

Instructor Information

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

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Life Science 519

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

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Course Information

Section Information
PSYC 6300-001, 55740

Time and Place of Class Meetings
Monday-Thursday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Life Science 100

Description of Course Content
Advent of internet has both enhanced and abated the human experience in ways that was unimaginable 2-3 decades ago. Cyber behavior is the study of how people behave in virtual environments "online" as opposed to in real life "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 behavior course is designed to introduce psychological vulnerabilities to technologically savy 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

Students 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. Weekly blog post (substack or any other preferred blogging site) relevant to the topics covered during lecture. Blog post should be minimum of 500 words and must demonstrate understanding of the psychological concepts covered in the reading material. More details will be given during the course.
2. Two in-class debates during the five week course. Teams and details will be discussed in class.
3. 3-5 page research proposal due at the end of the course. Rubric will be provided.

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

Grading Information

Grading

Blog Posts:	5 X 100 = 500 points.
In-class debates:	2 x 200 = 400 points.
Research Proposal:	1 X 300 = 300 points.
TOTAL	1200 points.

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 as published in the current University Catalog.

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

Course Schedule

WEEK 1		Topics	Due
06/06/22	Mon	Hardware of Information Processing: Brain and Silicon	
06/07/22	Tue	Online Privacy and Surveillance	
06/08/22	Wed	Online Persona and Impression Formation	
06/09/22	Thu	Social Engeneering and "Hacker" Analysis	Blog Post 1
WEEK 2			
06/13/22	Mon	Social Media and "Offline" Behavior	
06/14/22	Tue	Group Dynamics on the Internet	
06/15/22	Wed	Evolutionary Psychology and Large Networks	In-class debate 1
06/16/22	Thu	Reinforcement of Online Habits	Blog Post 2
WEEK 3			
06/20/22	Mon	Cognitive Biases and End User Decisions	
06/21/22	Tue	Memory Functions and Digital Information Processing	
06/22/22	Wed	Big data management	
06/23/22	Thu	Big data analysis and artifical intelligence basics	Blog Post 3
WEEK 4			
06/27/22	Mon	Online Persuasions strategies- Cognitive	
06/28/22	Tue	Online Persuasions strategies- Emotion	
06/29/22	Wed	E-commerce and Political Persuasion	In-class debate 2
06/30/22	Thu	E-commerce and Political Persuasion	Blog Post 4
WEEK 5			
07/04/22	Mon	Holiday	
07/05/22	Tue	Interpersonal attraction and Sexuality on the Internet	
07/06/22	Wed	Mental Health and Internet Addiction	
07/07/22	Thu	Ethics and Internet Access	Blog Post 5
07/08/22	Fri	Research Synthesis and Trends	Research Proposal

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
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

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 mendatory unless a prior engagement is established. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, 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) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)

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