# PSYC 3357-001; PSYC 5346-001: Cyberpsychology Basic Concepts

**Summer I 2024 (June 3 – July 3)**

## 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 11:00 am – 1:00 pm; Tuesday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

## Course Information

### Section Information

PSYC 3357-001

PSYC 5346-001

### Time and Place of Class Meetings

MWFTh 8am – 10:00am

Location: LS 428

### Description of Course Content

The advent of the internet has both enhanced and abated the human experience in ways that were unimaginable 2-3 decades ago. Cyberpsychology is a branch of psychology that studies the way people interact with technology and how technological tools affect 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 the 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. The cyberpsychology course is designed to introduce psychological vulnerabilities to technologically savvy students with hopes of aspiring them to invent technologies that improve their quality of life.

### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understanding Cyberpsychology Fundamentals:

- Students will be able to define cyberpsychology and explain its relevance in understanding human behavior in digital environments.

2. Analyzing Online Identity and Self-Presentation:

- Students will analyze how individuals create and manage their online identities, including the impact of social media and virtual communities on self-presentation.

3. Examining the Psychological Impact of Social Media:

- Students will evaluate the psychological effects of social media usage, such as its influence on mental health, self-esteem, and social interactions.

4. Exploring Online Relationships and Communication:

- Students will investigate the dynamics of online relationships, including the development, maintenance, and challenges of digital communication and virtual friendships.

5. Understanding Cyberbullying and Online Harassment:

- Students will identify the causes, consequences, and prevention strategies for cyberbullying and online harassment, focusing on their psychological impact on individuals.

6. Assessing the Influence of Digital Gaming and Virtual Reality:

- Students will assess the psychological effects of digital gaming and virtual reality experiences, including their potential benefits and drawbacks on cognitive and emotional well-being.

7. Exploring Internet Addiction and Digital Detox:

- Students will examine the concept of internet addiction, its symptoms, and the psychological and social factors contributing to it, as well as strategies for promoting digital well-being and balance.

8. Evaluating Ethical and Privacy Issues in Cyberpsychology:

- Students will evaluate the ethical considerations and privacy challenges in cyberpsychology research and practice, including data security, informed consent, and the ethical use of technology.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**

Students 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 on the content covered during the week. The reflection should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the topics covered, including citations from peer-reviewed articles. It should be between 500 and 700 words, font size 12, single or double-spaced.
2. Two multiple choice exams.
3. Daily in-class discussion participation.

### Technology Requirements

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

## Grading Information

### Grading

Weekly Reflection: 4 x 10 pts = 40 pts

Exams: 2 x 50 pts = 100 pts

Daily Discussion: 2 x 10 pts = 20 pts

Total: 160 pts

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://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uta.edu%2Facademics%2Fschools-colleges%2Fscience%2Fdepartments%2Fpsychology%2Fdegree-programs%2Fgraduate%2Fgraduate-resources%2Fstudent-grievance-form&data=05%7C01%7Camandeep.dhaliwal%40uta.edu%7C01c50ad434094e0b738708daedef3011%7C5cdc5b43d7be4caa8173729e3b0a62d9%7C0%7C0%7C638083908799830632%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1yyHE%2FrVr3lHNHY4iXUpyeXn0%2BLrFJIJJe8AXTIERdg%3D&reserved=0)

## 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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Topics | Assignment |
| 3-Jun | Introduction to Cyberpsychology |  |
| 4-Jun | Online Privacy and Surveillance |  |
| 5-Jun | Social Engineering |  |
| 6-Jun | Social Media | HW 1 |
| 10-Jun | Social Media |  |
| 11-Jun | Group Dynamics on the Internet |  |
| 12-Jun | Group Dynamics on the Internet |  |
| 13-Jun | Evolutionary Psychology | HW 2 |
| 17-Jun | Exam 1  Reinforcement of Online Habits |  |
| 18-Jun | Cognitive Biases and Decisions |  |
| 19-Jun | Cognitive Biases and Decisions |  |
| 20-Jun | Memory Functions in Digital Age | HW 3 |
| 24-Jun | AI Basics |  |
| 25-Jun | Online Persuasion |  |
| 26-Jun | Online Persuasion |  |
| 27-Jun | E-commerce | HW 4 |
| 1-Jul | Online Interpersonal Attraction |  |
| 2-Jul | Online Interpersonal Attraction |  |
| 3-Jul | Final Exam |  |

## 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](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) 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. 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](https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Q1vcXL7XqkyBc3KeOwpi2ccSjcIXpSJAqJFuDEhczLlUMVVHRVRIVlJJWDZJWlVYOUgxNjRPODdLVS4u).

## 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](https://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)(library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
* [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/)([ask.uta.edu/](http://ask.uta.edu/))
* [Research Coaches](https://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources

* [Library Tutorials](https://library.uta.edu/how-to) ([library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to))
* [Subject and Course Research Guides](https://libguides.uta.edu/) ([libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu/))
* [Librarians by Subject](https://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
* [A to Z List of Library Databases](https://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](https://openroom.uta.edu/)(openroom.uta.edu/)

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