

Spring 2021

## **STS 359-004: Foundations of Cyberpsychology**

Katherine Tyrol

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# **New Jersey Institute of Technology**

## **Cyberpsychology**

**STS 359**  
**Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kate Tyrol  
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**Contact:** [katherine.a.tyrol@njit.edu](mailto:katherine.a.tyrol@njit.edu)

**Office Hours:**  
Online  
Fridays 4 – 5 PM (or by appointment)

**Course Meeting Time and Location:**  
Section 004:  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM – 12:20 PM  
Kupfrian 105 and online

Sections 462 and 464: Online asynchronously  
Canvas: <https://njit.instructure.com/courses/17221>

## **Texts**

Connolly, I., Palmer, M., Barton, H., & Kirwan, G. (Eds.). (2016). *An Introduction to Cyberpsychology*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Other readings will be made available online.

## **Catalog Description**

Introduction to the study of the effects of the Internet and cyberspace on the psychology of individuals and groups. Some topics covered include online identity, online relationships, personality types in cyberspace, transference to computers, addiction to computers and the Internet, regressive behavior in cyberspace, and online gender-switching. This course satisfies the three credit 300 GER in History and Humanities.

Prerequisites: HUM 102 with a grade of C or higher, and one History and Humanities GER 200 level course with a grade of C or higher

## **Course Objectives**

In this course, students will:

- Develop a three-pronged understanding of Cyberpsychology, consisting of
  - How technology changes social interaction
  - How technology can best be shaped to meet the needs of human beings
  - How technology affects our individual psyches and behavior

- Increase their understanding of the relationship between the social and technical worlds.
- Improve their ability to express their ideas in writing.
- Learn to identify examples of cyberpsychological concepts in their observations of online spaces.

## 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>.

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](mailto:dos@njit.edu).

### Accessibility

This class is intended to be fully available to students regardless of health or disability status (whether mental or physical). If you need reasonable accommodations to complete the course because of a disability, you can reach out to the course instructor or to the office of accessibility resources and services.

### Course Environment

This course should be a safe space: in the classroom, in one-on-one discussions with the instructor, and in online spaces for this course. This means no hate speech (slurs or derogatory or demeaning comments) and no bullying. You are expected to treat your classmates respectfully and with kindness, generosity, and empathy.

### Assignment Submission

All assignments are to be submitted through Canvas unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Files must be of type .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt unless otherwise instructed. *Google Docs are NOT acceptable.*

Should you encounter technical problems, contact the NJIT helpdesk at 973-596-2900 (or simply extension 2900 from campus locations). In the event that it is impossible to submit through Canvas, you must submit a paper version of the assignment that includes an explanation of why online submission was not possible. If you cannot attend class, you may deliver paper submissions to the Humanities Department office in Cullimore Hall. Emailed work is not an acceptable substitute.

## Late Submissions

Assignment deadlines are not flexible. I encourage you to complete and submit assignments well in advance to avoid encountering any problems deadlines.

All late assignments will be docked 1% per day, except when an assignment is not accepted late as noted on Canvas.

No work whatsoever will be accepted after May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5 PM.

## Technology

You are required to bring a device with you to class that will allow you to access Canvas. This likely means a tablet, laptop or smart phone. There is no makeup credit if you do not bring such a device and are unable as a result to complete course activities that day.

## Miscellaneous

All assignments should be completed individually unless permission granted by instructor ahead of time.

No grade changes will be made without a scheduled, in-person meeting. You can ask questions about your grade in any context you would like, but you need to also schedule an in-person meeting with me if you believe a grade deserves re-evaluation.

This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester. All efforts will be made to adhere to the main deadlines listed here, but topics covered and readings assigned may change to meet the needs and interests of the class.

Please ask questions as frequently as possible, both in the classroom, outside of it, and online. Attend office hours or make an appointment. There is no reason for you not to understand assignments or expectations, so please take an active role in obtaining the knowledge you want or need.

## Grading (& Rubrics)

You will have 6 writing assignments and one extra assignment, all equally weighted. That means your final grade will be the average of these 7 assignments. The due dates and descriptions for these assignments will be posted on Canvas.

A	90 - 100
B+	88 – 89. $\overline{9}$
B	80 – 87. $\overline{9}$
C+	78 – 79. $\overline{9}$
C	70 – 77. $\overline{9}$

D	$60 - 69.\overline{9}$
F	$0 - 59.\overline{9}$

## Readings and Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Intro/Welcome/Syllabus	
	Online Interaction	Pages 3-8 and Chapter 3
2	Self & Identity	Chapter 4
	Self & Identity (cont)	Attrill-Smith, Chapter 3
3	Online Harassment	Chapter 5
	Attention and Distraction Online	Chapter 7
4	The Dynamics of Groups Online	Chapter 8
	Writing Workshop	
5	Persuasion & Compliance	Chapter 9
	Persuasion & Compliance (cont)	<a href="#">Power and the Medicalization of Society, by Christopher Harper-Till</a> and <a href="#">How We Understand Medicine, by Kate Tyrol</a> and Medical Compliance as an Ideology, by James Trostle
6	Persuasion & Compliance (cont.)	
	The Body Online	Self-Presence and the Effects of the Avatar on Health and Appearance, by Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz
7	Abnormal Cyberpsychology & Cybertherapy	Chapter 12
	Sport & Health Cyberpsychology	Chapter 13
8	Privacy & Trust	Chapter 10
	The Online Workplace	Chapter 14
9	<b>**SPRING BREAK**</b>	
10	Hacking	<a href="#">Why It Pays to Submit to Hackers, by Ryan Tate</a> and <a href="#">Attack of the Hack Back, by Josephine Wolff</a> and Optional: <a href="#">A Simple Design Flaw Makes It Astoundingly Easy To Hack Siri And Alexa, by Mark Wilson</a>
	The Online Classroom	Chapter 15
11	Consumer Cyberpsychology	Chapter 16
	Kids and the Internet	Chapter 17 Fiske article
12	Human-Computer Interaction	Chapter 18
	Gaming	Attrill-Smith, Chapters 26 and 28
13	Gaming (cont)	Chapter 19
	Gaming (cont)	WoW and Everquest Articles
14	Psychological Applications of Virtual Reality	Chapter 20
	The Psychology of Artificial Intelligence	Chapter 21
15	TBD	
	TBD	
16	Imagining Cyberpsychological Futures	