PSYC327 – Cyberpsychology: Human-Computer Interaction
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Maria Limniou (Maria.Limniou@liverpool.ac.uk)

Contents

Module Overview

The 21st Century has been characterised by an increased reliance on technology for a wide variety of everyday tasks. Thus, it is inevitable that human social and cognitive abilities have developed alongside this phenomenon. Cyberpsychology investigates the psychological and societal impact of computers, digital technology, and virtual environments. Considering the timely relevance of this phenomenon in current society, a module on Cyberpsychology would be of particular interest to psychology students who wish to develop psychological insights into human interactions with the Internet and digital technologies.

This module will allow students to apply the acquired knowledge in a wide variety of real-world contexts, such as education, cybersecurity, healthcare, online retail, and the gaming industry.

It is an **11-week module** with a 2-hour compulsory core lecture per week (11 x 2 hours) and **online compulsory synchronous seminars** (6 x 1 hour). This module also offers students online **optional** drop-in sessions (12 x 30 minutes), and **optional** face-to-face journal club sessions (3 x 1 hour).

The face-to-face **lectures** will provide students with an understanding of the psychological and social processes associated with engaging with digital technology, through the analysis and evaluation of relevant research. The **optional** face-to-face **journal club sessions** will assist students in enhancing their confidence and ability to critically evaluate research articles.

The **online seminars** and the blog assignment will allow students to develop and expand their digital literacy skills having a practice example during their studies. This assignment will assist them in enhancing their employability skills as they will have a digital presentation (blog) ready to share with their future employers after their studies. The **optional online drop-in sessions** will further support students with their coursework and the blog creation answering their questions (personalised learning). The students will also ask questions about the lecture content and their exams.

Discussions on various cyberpsychology topics will foster group debate enhancing student communication and critical thinking skills. Students can participate in the discussion using online tools (i.e., Padlet, CANVAS and Microsoft Teams).

The teaching approach will be based on **blended learning** where students will be informed about the lecture topic before the lecture sessions, the topic will be presented to them by embedding Microsoft Teams and Padlet questions and discussion will take place in class.

Module Aim
The module aims to look at Cyberpsychology from different angles that refer to different core domains of psychology: Cognitive, Social, Educational, Health, and Forensic psychology. Students will have the opportunity to develop core knowledge, acquired in their previous years of studies, in applied and currently relevant contexts. Additionally, this module aims to prepare students for the digital world requirements providing them with the knowledge that will be applicable in job settings with an online presence or where an understanding of human-computer interaction would be expected.

Learning Outcomes
1. Critically apply knowledge from core domains of psychology (e.g., human cognition and social psychology) to understand the psychology of human-computer interaction;
2. Critically evaluate the impact of digital technology on human behaviour in both individual and social contexts;
3. Communicate opinions and ideas effectively by using different digital media (e.g., blog and audio-visual presentation); and
4. Demonstrate an ability to edit digital blogs including writing, images, and audio-visuals.

Skill Development
1. Communication skills;
2. Digital literacy skills;
3. Critical thinking skills;
4. Problem-solving skills

Lecture
CORE LECTURE

WEEK	TOPIC	STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE
1	Introduction and fundamentals- Cybercognition (i.e., Digital Divide, Multitasking)	Dr Maria Limniou
2	Virtual Reality (VR) learning applications	Dr Maria Limniou and Mr Michael Batterley
3	Social Media – Self-presentation, Communication theories, Interactions, Anonymity	Dr Maria Limniou
4	Cybercrime – An overview including several examples	Dr Maria Limniou and Mrs Pantxika Morlat
5	The Internet use, self-esteem and narcissism	Dr Ian Schermbrucker
6	The psychology of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Mr Efthyvoulos Drousiotis (External speaker)
7	The current and future digital use in various domains	Dr Maria Limniou
8	Game, entertainment and well-being Industry	Mrs Caroline Hands
9	VR applications for mental health	Professor David Roberts (External speaker)
10	Online shopping and Digital Marketing (DM)	Dr Maria Limniou
11	Revision and Feedback	Dr Maria Limniou

ONLINE SEMINAR

WEEK	TOPIC	STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE
1	Preparing a blog space	Dr Maria Limniou and Ms Kat Purdy
2	Using images in a blog and preparing video-audio material	Dr Maria Limniou and Ms Kat Purdy
4	Online dating, cyber abuse and online presentation	Mrs Rebecca Ritchie
5	Digital identity and employability	Mrs Jennifer Foden
7	Applied use of technology in mental and physical health	Mr Andrew Palmer
8	Answering questions regarding your coursework	Dr Maria Limniou

TIMETABLE

The lectures, online seminars along with the optional journal club and drop-in sessions commence in **Teaching Week 1** (week commencing Monday 23rd September) until **Teaching Week 11** (week commencing Monday 2nd December).

The *lecture sessions* will take place on **Tuesdays** (**3 - 5 pm,** Life Sciences, Lecture Theatre 2, Room G63).

The online Seminars will take place on **Wednesdays** of Teaching Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 (**9-10 am**; Zoom link will be provided through the timetabling platform and CANVAS).

The **optional** *journal club sessions* of Teaching Weeks 3, 6 and 9 will take place on **Wednesdays** (**9 - 10 am,** Chadwick Building, Rotblat Lecture Theatre).

*The **optional** online drop-in session*s will take place on Fridays (**9-9.30 am** Zoom link will be provided through the timetabling platform and CANVAS).

Apart from the CANVAS *online forums*, the third-year students will have the opportunity to discuss the cyberpsychology lecture topics through the **Media and Cyberpsychology Microsoft Team space** and the **in-class Padlet wall**. Further instructions per activity will be provided during the lectures.

TEACHING STAFF

Module Co-ordinator	Dr Maria Limniou	Maria.Limniou@liverpool.ac.uk
Technical Assistant	Ms Kat Purdy *(Psychology TEL officer)*	K.Purdy@liverpool.ac.uk
Career Officers	Ms Dominique Price and Jennifer Foden *(Liaison members of staff for Careers and Employability)*	dmansley@liverpool.ac.uk J.Foden@liverpool.ac.uk
Other Teaching Staff **(in alphabetical order by last name)**	Mr Michael Batterley *(Internal speaker expertise in Virtual Reality)*	Michael.Batterley@liverpool.ac.uk
	Mrs Pantxika Morlat *(Demonstrator and PhD student in forensic psychology)*	P.Morlat@liverpool.ac.uk
	Mrs Caroline Hands *(Internal speaker expertise in digital education and well-being)*	cahands@liverpool.ac.uk
	Mr Andrew Palmer (PhD student in clinical health psychology)	A.Palmer5@liverpool.ac.uk
	Mrs Rebecca Ritchie *(Demonstrator and PhD student in cybercrime and online dating)*	Rebecca.Ritchie@liverpool.ac.uk
	Dr David Roberts (Expertise in Virtual Reality and owner of the 3D SharedReality Company)	D.J.Roberts@salford.ac.uk
	Dr Ian Schermbrucker *(Internal speaker expertise in social psychology)*	scherm@liverpool.ac.uk

Assessment Overview

Assessment type	% of final mark
Coursework (Blog)	30
Essay Exam (end term)	70

COURSEWORK

Cyberpsychology students will create their own web blog to discuss a cyberpsychology topic and to present themselves to potential employers and the general audience. The cyberpsychology topic should provide a critical discussion of a target research paper around a cyberpsychology topic, and then critically discuss it in terms of its methods, data analysis, and/or interpretation of findings, before discussing the wider implications of the work. The assessment criteria are provided in the "**Assessment and Feedback**" document on the CANVAS module space. More specific details about the coursework students can find under the CANVAS modules entitled "*Online Seminar and Optional Journal Club*" section.

ESSAY EXAM

This will take place **online** in January whereby students will select **2 out of 6 essay topics**. Students will have **2 hours** to submit their essays from the release of the exam papers. A separate document per essay title should be submitted **once** and it will be the student's responsibility to upload their exam essay to the correct online space on CANVAS. Each essay has a **1,000-word limit.** The word limit includes text, footnotes, endnotes, and in-text references (authors and dates). It will not include the title page information (i.e., essay title, student ID) and the reference list section. The referencing list at the end of the essay is not required for the exam essays. Students should use **Microsoft Word** to check their final word count before submission. Other applications use different methods to calculate the total word count, which can result in an artificially lower word count.

The essay exam titles will be based on the topics covered in the lectures but reading beyond lecture material is **highly** recommended. Overall, the students should demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding of the key points and present an *advanced* critical analysis of the evidence base. More information about the essay exams alongside generic marking criteria is given in the "*Assessment and Feedback*" document on CANVAS.

Reading List

Students should read the **recommended reading material** which is provided to them in each week's lecture to produce supplementary module notes relating to the core syllabus. Several books relevant to the specific discussed module topics (see a sample below) are provided along with journal articles and other supplementary material, such as videos and blogs. To find the books related to this module, click the "*Reading Lists @ Liverpool*" link on CANVAS or use the University Library link to find the relevant textbooks.