

# PSY 361: Foundations of Cyberpsychology II

PSY 361-002  
TR 4:00 PM KUPF 104  
3 credits, Spring 2025

John Wolf, Ph.D.  
208E Cullimore Hall  
jwolf@njit.edu

## I. Course Description

This course applies the behavioral and psychological sciences to study of the effects of the internet and contemporary information and communication technologies (ICTs) on individuals and groups. Topics include artificial intelligence, robotics, big data and machine learning, artificial and virtual realities, telepsychology, health applications of ICTs, distance learning and professional development, online assessment and evaluation, online research, and data analytics. *Prerequisites: PSY 210 (may be taken as a corequisite) and PSY 359.*

## II. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the psychological and behavioral sciences and technological society.
2. Identify and understand the major research fields, principles, and research findings in cyberpsychology.
3. Analyze behavioral, social, and cultural changes due to the introduction of digital technologies.
4. Employ analytical techniques relevant to identified content in the field of cyberpsychology.
5. Frame contemporary issues through the lens of cyberpsychology.
6. Use self-reflection, critical thought, and argumentative skills that expand awareness of the student and the world around them.
7. Apply theories related to cyberpsychology throughout the course.

## III. Textbook & Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All assigned readings will be distributed and made available through the course Canvas site (canvas.njit.edu).

## IV. Attendance

The information presented in class is important and unique to each course session. Attendance and final grade are highly correlated; thus, students who attend class and are active in the class tend to do very well, while students who miss class tend to do worse (especially as the total number of classes missed increases). Hence, students must be present at all classes. All excused absences must be validated by submitting a [Request for Absence Verification form](#), which is administered by the Office of the Dean of Students. After three unexcused absences, a student may receive a failing grade in the course.

## V. Assessment

You will be assessed regularly throughout the semester using assignments (20%), presentations and the creation of an in-class activity (30%), in-class participation (20%), and a final assessment at the end of the term (30%). The submission deadlines for assignments are listed on the Canvas course site and should be observed strictly. It is important that you stay on top of the assigned work and that you plan ahead.

### **Assignments (20%)**

A range of assignments will be used to evaluate and assess your learning and understanding of course materials throughout the semester. The assignment criteria will be provided in advance via the Canvas course page. *In total, assignments will comprise 20% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Presentation & In-Class Activity (30%)**

Each student will prepare a presentation and an in-class activity related to one of the topics we will cover throughout the semester. Topics will be chosen/assigned during the second week of the course. Grading criteria for the presentation as well as the in-class activity will be provided via the Canvas course site. *In total, the presentation and in-class activity will comprise 30% of your final grade in the course.*

### **In-Class Participation (20%)**

This is a seminar-style course, meaning that it is driven by discussion and other forms of active learning in which students guide and cultivate the learning process. A seminar requires student participation in order to operate properly, thus, active participation through contribution to in-class discussions is a critical component of assessing your performance in the course. *In total, in-class participation will comprise 20% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Final Exam (30%)**

A final assessment in the form of a final exam will be used to evaluate your understanding of course materials at the conclusion of the course. *In total, the final exam will comprise 30% of your final grade in the course.*

## VI. Assignment Deadlines

Regarding assignment deadlines: it will be common for me to indicate that a given assignment or quiz is “due by the end of the day” and/or “due by the end of the week.” For the purposes of this class, “end of the day” is 11:59 PM on the day being referenced (thus, “end of the day on Friday” means “by 11:59 PM on Friday”) and

“end of the week” refers to Sunday for the week being referenced (for example, “end of Week #2” means “by Sunday, February 2”).

All deadlines are given in Eastern Time (five hours behind Coordinated Universal Time when in standard time, and four hours behind when observing daylight saving time). Thus, if you are traveling, it is up to you to ensure that you submit assignments on time (this may be especially germane for those of you who have out-of-town engagements, athletics, etc. planned throughout the semester).

## **VII. Grading Scale**

The grade you receive in this course will be based on a tally of your scores on all assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. throughout the term. Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

> 89.5	A
89.4 – 86.5	B+
86.4 – 79.5	B
79.4 – 75.5	C+
75.4 – 65.5	C
65.4 – 55.5	D
< 55.4	F

*NOTE: As a general rule, I do not give extra credit. Nor do I respond to emails or questions that ask, “Is there anything I can do to get an A or to bump up my grade a few extra points?” Please do not send me emails of this nature, as I will not respond to them.*

## **VIII. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Unless otherwise specified, students are expected to work without artificial intelligence (AI) assistance in order to better develop their skills in this content area. As such, AI usage is not permitted throughout this course under any circumstance unless specifically noted by the professor and stated within assignment instructions.

## **IX. Email Policy & Communication with Instructor**

I will respond to emails as quickly as possible (usually no later than the next business day), but it’s important that you understand my email policy so that you know when you can reasonably anticipate a reply. During non-holiday weekdays (Monday-Friday), it is my policy to check email at least twice daily: once in the morning/early afternoon (usually by or before 1:00 PM) and once in the late afternoon or early evening (usually by or before 6:00 PM). Thus, it may take several hours for me to reply to your email, depending on when you send it. *Please allow 24 hours before sending a second email regarding the same topic.*

If sending emails in the evening or during the late night: I *CANNOT* guarantee you a response before the next business day. Furthermore, you should *NOT* expect a response to emails sent over the weekend (from Friday evening through Sunday) until the following business day (usually Monday, unless Monday is a holiday). Thus, it will be unequivocally to your benefit to plan ahead and work accordingly!

**X. Office Hours**

I will hold office hours weekly on Wednesdays from 12:00 until 1:00 PM or by appointment. My office location is 208E Cullimore Hall (i.e., inside the Office of the Dean of the College of Science & Liberal Arts).

## XI. Spring 2025 Semester Schedule

WEEK	DATE	DAY	TOPIC
1	January 21, 2025	Tuesday	Course Introduction
	January 23, 2025	Thursday	Course Introduction (cont'd)
2	January 28, 2025	Tuesday	Understanding & Working with Primary Sources
	January 30, 2025	Thursday	Understanding & Working with Primary Sources (cont'd)
3	February 4, 2025	Tuesday	Technology Use & Identity Negotiation
	February 6, 2025	Thursday	Technology Use & Identity Negotiation (cont'd)
4	February 11, 2025	Tuesday	The Internet of Things
	February 13, 2025	Thursday	Artificial Intelligence
5	February 18, 2025	Tuesday	Artificial Intelligence (cont'd)
	February 20, 2025	Thursday	Artificial Intelligence (cont'd)
6	February 25, 2025	Tuesday	Machine Learning
	February 27, 2025	Thursday	Machine Learning (cont'd)
7	March 4, 2025	Tuesday	Robotics
	March 6, 2025	Thursday	Robotics (cont'd)
8	March 11, 2025	Tuesday	Augmented & Virtual Realities
	March 13, 2025	Thursday	Augmented & Virtual Realities (cont'd)
9	March 18, 2025	Tuesday	Spring Recess – Classes Do Not Meet
	March 20, 2025	Thursday	Spring Recess – Classes Do Not Meet
10	March 25, 2025	Tuesday	Health Applications
	March 27, 2025	Thursday	Health Applications (cont'd)
11	April 1, 2025	Tuesday	Telepsychology
	April 3, 2025	Thursday	Wellness Day – No Classes
12	April 8, 2025	Tuesday	Online & Remote Education
	April 10, 2025	Thursday	Online & Remote Education (cont'd)
13	April 15, 2025	Tuesday	Online & Remote Work
	April 17, 2025	Thursday	Online & Remote Work (cont'd)
14	April 22, 2025	Tuesday	Cybercrime & Cybersecurity
	April 24, 2025	Thursday	Cybercrime & Cybersecurity (cont'd)
15	April 29, 2025	Tuesday	Cyberpsychological Policy Implications
	May 1, 2025	Thursday	Course Conclusions/Final Exam Review
16	May 6, 2025	Tuesday	Thursday Classes Meet
	May 8, 2025	Thursday	Reading Day #1 (i.e., no class)

## **XII. Boilerplate Provisions**

### [University Code on Academic Integrity](#)

The essential quality of this Policy is that each student shall demonstrate honesty and integrity in the completion of all assignments and in the participation of the learning process. Adherence to the University policy on Academic Integrity promotes the level of integrity required within the university and professional communities and assures students that their work is being judged fairly with the work of others. This Policy defines those behaviors which violate the principles of academic integrity, describes a range of appropriate sanctions for offenses, and identifies a method for promoting the principle of academic integrity on campus.

### [Accessibility Resources & Service Accommodations](#)

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services works in partnership with administrators, faculty, and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and support services for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and visiting students with disabilities who have provided our office with medical documentation to receive services. We strive to promote an inclusive environment that encompasses advocacy and access to all campus resources.

### [Flexible Syllabus](#)

This course syllabus is an orderly arranged procedure for structuring the learning process. However, it is open for alteration or change by mutual understanding and agreement, so long as the change is consistent with the stated course goals or objectives.

## **XIII. Helpful Links**

### [Office of Academic Advising \(OAA\)](#)

The Office of Academic Advising (OAA) was established in order to assist in the advisement of students who are undecided in their major, transitioning into another major at NJIT, and those students who need additional support to graduate successfully and in a timely manner. OAA is a place where students will get intentional and intrusive advising, by a supportive academic advisor that will enable them to grow developmentally and give them the motivation they need to complete their degree.

### [The Writing Center](#)

The Writing Center, located on the ground floor of CKB, is a free resource which offers on-site tutoring. We provide one-on-one and group tutoring sessions to students from all disciplines, during the fall and spring semesters. During Center hours, tutors are available to work with students on any aspect of their writing, from generating ideas and developing arguments, to working through drafts to their completion and revising effectively.