

**PSY 201: Orientation to Psychology as a Behavioral Science**

Mon/Wed 10-11:20am, Central King Building 126

SYLLABUS DRAFT 9/9/24 – SUBJECT TO REVISION

**Instructor:** Dr. Julia Hyland Bruno

**Contact:** [julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu](mailto:julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu)

**Office hour:** Weds 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment, Cullimore 313

**PREREQUISITES**

None, although enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Cyberpsychology program is strongly encouraged.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will serve as an orientation to psychology in general and cyberpsychology in particular. Through readings, seminar-style discussions, reflective writing, and independent and group assignments, students will investigate the nature of behavioral science, the societal importance of cyberpsychology, and career opportunities in the field.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Discuss major issues and questions in cyberpsychology
- Understand the different contexts in which cyberpsychology and behavioral science are vital at NJIT
- Critically evaluate cyberpsychological claims
- Envision possible career paths in cyberpsychology and behavioral science
- Articulate personal interests in cyberpsychology as well as educational and professional goals
- Identify with a community of other cyberpsychology-oriented students.

## COURSE MATERIALS

Text: We will be reading selected portions of the following book, which can be purchased new for under \$40 (ebook or paperback):

- Bateson, M., & Martin, P. (2021). *Measuring behaviour: An introductory guide* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cambridge University Press.

You do not need to purchase this book (I will provide PDFs of all selections), but if you choose to do so please make sure to get Fourth Edition.

Internet, technology, online resources and communication: This course requires internet access and access to a computer. Please bring a laptop or tablet with you to class (please speak with me individually if this is or becomes an issue for you). Please also bring a notebook/paper and writing utensil to every class meeting. **We will be practicing deliberate use of technology throughout the course.** Certain class activities will require you to put electronic devices away (again, please speak with me individually if you have any concerns about this).

We will be using the following resources for homework and in-class activities:

- **Canvas** (<https://njit.instructure.com/>). We will use Canvas as the course repository. Assigned readings and other course materials will be made available through Canvas. Please always check Canvas for the most up-to-date version of the syllabus (this document), as well as the overall course gradebook.
- **Google Drive.** We will be using Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms throughout the semester. Please use the account associated with your NJIT email.

Email is the primary mode of communication in this course. Please check your email regularly and make sure that your Canvas notifications are set to receive broadcast announcements via email. If I do not respond to your email within 24 hours, please follow up with me.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements are worth the following percentages of your final grade:

- Cyberpsychology in the news: 20%
  - Weekly submissions: 2% each
- Critical encounters with AI: 20%
  - Demonstrations of the limitations of ChatGPT's understanding of behavioral science: 5% each

- Synthesizing exercises (exams): 20%
  - Midterm: 10%
  - Final: 10%
- Other assignments (individual): 15%
- Other assignments (group): 15%
- Preparation, attendance and participation: 10%

Detailed information will be provided about all course assignments. In general, *late submissions will be graded at half-credit.*

Class participation: *Attendance is required.* In-class assignments cannot be made up except under extenuating circumstances.

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter (description)
90 and above	A (superior)
85 – 89	B+ (excellent)
80 – 84	B (very good)
75 – 79	C+ (good)
70 – 74	C (acceptable)
60 – 69	D (minimum)
59 and below	F (inadequate)

*Any extenuating circumstances that could interfere with your ability to complete the requirements for this course must be taken to the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will discuss your situation with you, assess any relevant documentation, and make the determination of whether any special accommodations will be granted (e.g., late withdrawal from the course, request for an extension, request for an Incomplete, etc.).*

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND COURSE POLICIES

NJIT requires me to include this language:

***Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating 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 my 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).*

Course policy on student use of artificial intelligence (AI):

*The “critical encounters with AI” assignments require experimenting with ChatGPT. Otherwise AI is not permitted in this course, unless explicit permission is granted.*

**The course may not be recorded without permission of the instructor.**

## **ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS/COUNSELING SERVICES**

If you anticipate any issues related to the format or materials of this course, or if you would like to discuss any accommodations that might be helpful, please contact me at the start of the semester. If you have a documented disability, or if you think you might have a disability, you should also be in touch with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), either to request an official accommodation or to discuss requesting one. More information about OARS is available here: <https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>.

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) provides a number of confidential resources for any student interested in seeking help with personal issues, emotional concerns, or stress. Visit <https://www.njit.edu/counseling/> to learn more.

**SCHEDULE**

	TOPIC(S)	READING	ASSIGNMENT(S) [all due 10am]
9/4	<b>Introductions</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyberpsychology in the news (CITN) article info [submitted in class]</li> </ul>
9/9	<b>CITN // Obtaining credible information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	
9/10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
9/11	<b>Situating cyberpsychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>
9/16	<b>CITN // Situating cyberpsychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>Library finding (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library assignment</li> </ul>
9/17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
9/18	<b>Science, knowing and truth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>
9/20			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical encounters with AI (CEWAI) #1 (practice)</li> </ul>
9/23	<b>CITN // CEWAI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	
9/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
9/25	<b>Behavioral research questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>
9/30	<b>CITN // Behavioral study design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question (Bateson &amp; Martin chapter)</li> </ul>
10/1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
10/2	<b>Ethics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>
10/4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEWAI #2</li> </ul>
10/7	<b>Behavioral observation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and Human Subject Research (HSR) training certifications</li> </ul>
10/8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
10/9	<b>CITN // Describing behavior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>

	TOPIC(S)	READING	ASSIGNMENT(S) [all due 10am]
10/14	<b>CITN // Interactions with technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>• Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading question (Bateson &amp; Martin chapter)</li> </ul>
10/15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article info</li> </ul>
10/16	<b>Measuring behavior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading question</li> </ul>
10/18			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEWAI #3</li> </ul>
10/21	<b>CITN // Measuring behavior // Midterm review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	
10/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article info</li> </ul>
10/23	<b>MIDTERM</b>		
10/28	<b>CITN // Ethogram study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	
10/29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article info</li> </ul>
10/30	<b>Ethogram study</b>		
11/1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethogram data collection</li> </ul>
11/4	<b>CITN // Ethogram study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>• Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading question (Bateson &amp; Martin chapter)</li> </ul>
11/3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article info</li> </ul>
11/6	<b>Data analysis</b>		
11/8			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEWAI #4</li> </ul>
11/11	<b>CITN // Data interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>• Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading question (Bateson &amp; Martin chapter)</li> </ul>
11/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITN article info</li> </ul>
11/13	<b>Science communication</b>		

	TOPIC(S)	READING	ASSIGNMENT(S) [all due 10am]
11/18	CITN // Studying social behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> <li>Bateson &amp; Martin (2021), Ch. 9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading question</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (personal selection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article info</li> </ul>
11/20	Studying social behavior		
11/22			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEWAI #5</li> </ul>
11/25	CITN // What's special about cyberpsychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest speaker: <a href="#">Yao Sun</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITN article (class selection)</li> </ul>	
11/27	NO CLASS [Friday schedule]		
12/2	What's special about cyberpsychology? // Debate prep		
12/4	Debate prep		
12/9	Debate #1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debate team materials</li> </ul>
12/11	Debate #2		
TBA	FINAL EXAM		