



PSYO380H: Cyberpsychology

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30pm PT – July 4th to August 11th, 2023

Instructor: Katherine Rose, B.A., M.A.

Email: katherine.rose@ubc.ca

Office hours

Appointments are available by request throughout the term. Virtual appointments are held in the [Cyberpsychology Virtual Office link](#) (meeting ID: 614 7628 6124 and passcode 427521). I am delighted to chat about anything course or academia related! In cases where a virtual meeting is not possible, I aim to provide thorough email responses. All emails will be answered within 24 hours during week days, but emails may not be monitored on evenings or weekends.

Course Description and Outcomes

Cyberpsychology joins multiple disciplines in the study of how we think, feel, and behave while using (and because of using) computer and internet technology. In this course, we will explore motivations for, patterns of, and outcomes of online behaviours that fall on a spectrum from usual to illegal. Students who complete this course will be able to evaluate the most up-to-date and relevant issues within the field including well-being and psychopathology, consumer behaviour, privacy, computer-mediated communication, social networking, online relationships, cyberbullying, internet crimes, and more. Students will be equipped to appraise a range of issues related to the internet and human behaviour with consideration of research findings, research limitations, and ideas for future research.

After completing this course and all lectures, students will be able to:

1. Explain the effects of the Internet on well-being from a health and developmental perspective
2. Appraise the efficacy of computer-mediated communication in a variety of contexts (e.g., self-presentation, romance, deception)
3. Predict the impact of a problematic online behavior on the user or target
4. Evaluate a real-world example of criminal online behavior based on research and legal criteria
5. Discuss a wide range of issues related to the internet and human behaviour with consideration of research findings, research limitations, and ideas for future research

Course Format

Course lectures are pre-recorded and posted on Canvas per the schedule below, by 5:30pm PT. Students can review the material at their own pace; however, it is *highly* recommended that students keep up with the weekly schedule so they are prepared for the course evaluations. Assigned readings are available for free through the **Library Online Course Reserves** tab in Canvas. For efficient studying, pay attention to key definitions, theories, research findings, and take-home points. Students will not be tested on research methodology or statistics; instead, exams will focus on the key findings and implications of readings.

Requirements for Online Delivery

In order to engage fully with this course online, students are required to have a laptop or desktop computer and a stable Internet connection. Students are encouraged to visit: <https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/setting-up/> to help with setting up for success in online learning. Students are also asked to turn on email notifications for course announcements (click on Account and then Notifications).



Course Evaluations

1. Participation Activities (20%)

Participation activities will be posted under Assignments in Canvas every Thursday (6 posted in total). Each assignment is valued at 4%, meaning **you only need to complete 5**. This means that you can choose to (or accidentally) miss 1 for any reason, and still earn full marks. If you complete 6 activities, I will take your highest-graded 5 for your participation total. For full marks, students must thoroughly address all parts of the prompt (2%) and show thoughtfulness and creativity/critical thinking (2%). Students are encouraged to use these activities to explore topics of personal interest. Paragraphs, slideshows, visuals, audio recordings, video, or other formats are welcome *unless* a format is specified in the instructions.

Participation assignments that are submitted past the deadline will not be marked. If technical difficulties prevent you from submitting the assignment on Canvas, please document the difficulty (e.g., screenshots), and e-mail me your assignment as soon as possible. Difficulties that are not reported in a timely manner or that are not substantiated may result in not having your assignment accepted or graded. If you are facing a circumstance beyond your control that hinders your participation and constitutes grounds for an academic concession please contact me *before* the due date in question to request a concession. Requests for concessions for participation activities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in line with policy.

2. Midterm Exam (40%)

The midterm exam will consist of 70-75 multiple-choice questions drawn from all course content covered up to and including the CMC lecture. This is a 2-hour quiz delivered on Canvas. The midterm will occur during scheduled class time **July 25th at 5:30pm PT**. Students who miss their exam without justification or documentation will receive a grade of 0%. If you are facing a circumstance beyond your control that is grounds for an academic concession, please contact me as early as possible before your exam so that we can determine the most appropriate academic concession depending on the grounds and the situation.

Exam details (to help you study effectively) will be posted at least one week in advance. Briefly however, the examinations in this course are **open-book**, i.e., you have access to the course materials during the exam. You are **not** allowed to discuss exam questions with your peers or use search engines. It is important to note, however, that you will likely not have enough time to look up the majority of the answers, so studying prior to the examination is beneficial. I do not use proctoring technology. During exams, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that any technical issues are reported to me immediately. If you cannot connect with me, please document the issue or technical concern via a screenshot. This is the only circumstance in which it is okay to document (i.e., screenshot) exam material. Failing to report technical issues in a timely manner may result in the issue being unresolved and/or impact your grade.

3. Final Exam (40%)

Format, expectations, and guidelines for the final are identical to the midterm above. Your final is not cumulative and includes everything from July 20th onwards. The examination period for Term II of Summer 2023 is August 15th – August 19th. **The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's office.**

Students can for an out-of-time final exam if they are: facing examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period); facing an unforeseen event; representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. The request form for an out-of-time examination can be found [here](#).



4. Optional Thought Paper (15%)

The paper is an optional assignment that reduces the value of your final exam to 25%. Students will select one of the provided prompts and write a brief essay in response. **Please visit the “Thought Paper” Module for more information.** The deadline to opt-in to the assignment (or opt-out again if you have changed your mind) is July 27th. The paper assignment is due **August 8th** on Canvas. Unexcused late papers are subject to a 10% penalty per day and will be subject to a mark of 0% if absent by end of exams. Grades are final (i.e., you cannot opt out after you receive your grade).

5. SONA Credit (2%)

Students may also earn up to 2% of SONA credits added to your final course grade (see pages 7-8).

Final grades will be based on the evaluations listed above and will be assigned according to the standardized grading system ([here](#)) outlined in the UBC Okanagan Calendar. The instructor reserves the right to re-allocate the assigned percentages above to accommodate an individual’s student need (i.e., academic concessions). Students will be able to view their final grades on Canvas and **will have 48 hours from date of posting to alert the instructor to any calculation errors before grades are submitted.** The Barber School reserves the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or the school norms. Students should therefore note that the faculty, department, or school might change an unofficial grade given by an instructor.

Policies for Late or Missed Evaluations

Please review UBCO’s policy on Academic Concessions [here](#), with particular attention to all pages as part of this policy (listed in the drop-down menu on the right-hand side). This section of your syllabus provides an overview of some key points from the policy on Academic Concessions. In short, students may request an academic concession in circumstances that may adversely affect their attendance or performance in a course or program (e.g., late or missed evaluations). Generally, circumstances for concessions fall under *conflicting responsibilities, medical circumstances, or compassionate grounds*.

It is a student’s responsibility to arrange their scheduled non-academic activities to the best of their ability in a manner that enables full attendance and participation in their courses. For example, students should use start and end dates, exam periods, and course syllabi to anticipate and avoid conflicts. *Conflicting responsibilities* that warrant concessions do not include travel or social plans that conflict with class or exam schedules unless the travel is related to another valid ground for academic concession. *Conflicting responsibilities* that create grounds for academic concession are beyond the student’s control and normally arise after the student has registered in courses. Participation in a religious observance, or a cultural observance for First Nations, Métis, or Inuit students of Canada is governed by accommodations under Policy J-136. Read more about academic accommodation for religious and cultural observances [here](#).

Course instructors are normally responsible for responding to requests from students who miss required assignments, tests, or deadlines during the term. The Dean must be involved in all decisions on academic concessions pertaining to term-end submissions and formal examinations. There are numerous types of academic concessions, and the instructor or Dean will determine the most appropriate academic concession depending on the grounds and the situation of the student according to the procedures set out in this policy and, where applicable, additional procedures set out by the Faculty. Determination of whether to grant an academic concession and which type of academic concession is most appropriate will depend on the student’s individual circumstances.



Course Schedule

Recorded lecture and slides will be posted on Canvas under Modules. Select lectures may also feature special guest speaker content and/or videos for students to watch. Readings that cover content not discussed by the instructor are still fair game for examination. As a friendly reminder, readings are available under the Library Online Course Reserves tab.

Date	Lecture	Readings	Due
July 4	Human Development	Madigan et al. (2019); Carson et al. (2021)	
July 6	Health and Wellbeing	Wallace & Buil (2021); Small et al. (2022)	
July 11	Online & Digital Marketing	Kim et al. (2023); Conti et al. (2022)	Activity 1
July 13	Self-Presentation & Dating	Antheunis et al. (2020); Dai & Robbins (2021)	
July 18	CMC & Deception – <i>midterm cutoff</i>	Lauder & March, 2023; Hancock et al., 2018	Activity 2
July 20	Pathological Behaviours	Whitty: Chapter 10; Bragazzi et al. (2014)	
July 25	Midterm Exam	Midterm exam instructions	Activity 3
July 27	Cyberbullying *	Hinduja & Patchin (2020); Broll et al. (2018)	
Aug 1	Cybercrime & Security	Harbinson & Selzer (2019); Schiks et al. (2022)	Activity 4
Aug 3	Crimes Against Children	Whitty: Chapter 14; Black et al. (2015)	
Aug 8	Future of Cyberpsych **	Connolly: Chapters 20-21; Hanoch et al. (2021)	Activity 5
Aug 10	Live Discussion (optional)	More details to follow	
Aug 15	Final exam period starts (15 th -19 th)	Final exam instructions	Activity 6

* Last day to enroll in thought paper by emailing instructor (also last day to drop if you had enrolled).

** Optional thought paper (if you enrolled) is also due 5:30pm PT in Canvas, under Assignments.



Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. This means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) are subject to harsh sanctions, including an assigned mark of 0% in the evaluation, and more serious consequences if the issue is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recurrences. Students will be provided a reminder of these policies before evaluations. Information on academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found [here](#). University policy on student conduct during examinations can be found [here](#).

Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that land on which this course is taught is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

I am committed to creating a learning environment where *all* students feel included, respected, and safe regardless of gender identity, sexuality, socioeconomic background, race, culture, religion, and physical or cognitive abilities. I believe that diversity – as represented in our classroom and course content – is an asset for learning. I also acknowledge that historically, psychology is founded in a White Eurocentric perspective and has not always included diverse people, viewpoints, or experiences. To change this, I want *your* voice to be heard. I warmly welcome you to contact me if you have any feedback or suggestions to improve the quality of course materials. Likewise, if there is anything I can do to remove obstacles to your learning or improve your overall experience, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can co-create an inclusive course climate by respecting all worldviews expressed in class and engaging in professional behaviour. Some guidelines for our online community include but are not limited to:

- Using professional language and not using inappropriate, stigmatizing, or rude language
- Not sharing others' discussion posts outside of Canvas
- Honouring preferred names and pronouns in discussion

Student Resources

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office

250.807.9291 | equity.ubco@ubc.ca | www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity

UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment based on the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination, or harassment, please contact the Equity and Inclusion Office (UNC 227C).

UBC Okanagan Ombuds Office

250.807.9818 | ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca | <http://ombudsoffice.ubc.ca/ubc-okanagan-2/>

The Ombuds Office offers independent, impartial, and confidential support to students in navigating UBC policies, processes, and resources, as well as guidance in resolving concerns related to fairness.



UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre

250.807.9263 | earllene.roberts@ubc.ca | www.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/drc

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities, injuries, or illness. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts, the Manager for the Disability Resource Centre located in Commons Corner in the University Centre building (UNC 227).

Sexual Violence and Prevention Response Office

250.807.9640 | <https://svpro.ok.ubc.ca>

A safe place for faculty, staff, and students who have experienced sexual assault regardless of identity, expression, orientation, regardless of when or where it took place.

Health and Wellness

UBCO's Health and Wellness provides many services and resources to the student body, including individual in-person or online therapy appointments, self-help apps, groups, and workshops. Visit their website <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/counselling-mental-health/> or call:

- Health and Wellness 250-807-9270 (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm)
- Security 250-807-8111 (emergency)
- Security 250-807-9236 (non-emergency)
- 24 Hour Crisis line 1-800-784-2433 (1-800-SUICIDE)
- 24 Hour Nurses Help Line 811

UBC Student Assistance Program

Offered by Aspiria, the UBC Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a free, 24/7 wellness resource for students. Services include personal counselling, life coaching, group programs and more for a wide range of issues, including student life, health and wellness, or finances. This is a confidential space to discuss your concerns, with multiple language options available. You will be directed to wellness and counselling resources based on your needs. To see how to access by phone, internet, or mobile app, visit their website: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/student-assistance-program/>

Copyright Disclaimer

Diagrams and figures included in lecture presentations adhere to Copyright Guidelines for UBC Faculty, Staff and Students <http://copyright.ubc.ca/requirements/copyright-guidelines/> and UBC Fair Dealing Requirements for Faculty and Staff <http://copyright.ubc.ca/requirements/fair-dealing>. Some of these figures and images are subject to copyright and will not be posted to Canvas. All material uploaded to Canvas that contain diagrams and figures are used with permission of the publisher; are in the public domain; are licensed by Creative Commons; meet the permitted terms of use of UBC's library license agreements for electronic items; and/or adhere to the UBC Fair Dealing Requirements for Faculty and Staff. Access to the *Canvas* course site is limited to students currently registered in this course. Under no circumstance are students permitted to provide any other person with means to access this material. Anyone violating these restrictions may be subject to legal action. Permission to electronically record any course materials must be granted by the instructor. Distribution of this material to a third party is forbidden.



Sona Research Activity

Students earn Sona credit points for their eligible courses from participating in research activity. This can be either through direct participation in research through the Sona online research system (Option 1), by completing summaries of primary research articles (Option 2), or by a combination of the two. This course allows for a 2% bonus to be added to the final course grade for participating. Please email psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the Sona system. Your professor or instructor does NOT have access to this information.

Research Participation (Option 1)

As a participant in one of the numerous research studies posted at <http://ubco.sona-systems.com/>, you will obtain 0.5% credit for each 0.5 hour of participation. Hence, studies requiring a 1-hour time commitment provides a credit of 1%, 1.5 hours provides a credit of 1.5%, and 2 hours provides a credit of 2.0%, etc.

Important Requirements: You may participate in more than one study to earn credits. It is important to sign up for studies early in the semester to increase the odds that a timeslot is available. If you wait until later in the semester, timeslots may no longer be available.

Logging On to The System: Sona is only open for those students who are registered in a psychology course offering Sona credit points. Please only use the request account option if you have never used the Sona system before. If you have used the Sona system before, please use the most recent login information you remember to log in.

Missed Appointments & Penalties: Missed appointments (i.e., failure to cancel the appointment at least 3 hours prior to the session) will be tracked. The consequence will be that you will not receive credit for participation in the study and you will be assigned an unexcused no-show. The unexcused no-show designation will cause you to lose the credit value of the study from the total possible credit points you can earn for your course. For example, if you are in PSYO 111 (or 121), you can earn up to 4.0 credits. If you miss an hour-long session that you signed up for (i.e., 1.0 credit) and don't cancel it in advance, the maximum credits that you can now earn for your course is 3.0, regardless of how many studies you complete.

Your ability to withdraw your data will depend upon the study. Instructions for withdrawing your data (including limitations) will be described in the study's consent form. If, after consenting to participate and starting a session (or survey), you decide to withdraw your consent, to avoid receiving an unexcused no-show on Sona, **you must do one of the following:**

- if it is an online study, you must cancel your Sona sign-up and/or contact Shirley (psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca) if you are unable to cancel your sign-up.
- if it is an in-person study, you must let the researcher know directly. Their email can be found on the main description page for the study (little envelope icon). Depending upon the study, they will either cancel your session or assign you an excused no-show (meaning that you will not be penalized).

Research Summary Assignment (Option 2)

As an alternative to participating in research studies, you may obtain Sona credit points by completing library-writing projects to a satisfactory level. Each library-writing project is worth a total of two credits.



Important Requirements: This project consists of reading and summarizing (in written form) a recent, peer-reviewed, primary research article. A “recent” article has been published within the past 12 months. A “peer reviewed” article has been reviewed by other scholars before it is accepted – for example, it **cannot** be a news item, an article from a popular magazine, a notice, or a letter to the editor. A “primary” research article describes an experiment or study where data are collected by the authors. In other words, the article you choose **cannot** be a book review, literature review, or summary article.

You must choose an article published by one of the following agencies:

- The American Psychological Society - *Psychological Science*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, or *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.
- The American Psychological Association - www.apa.org/journals/by_title.html has a full listing.
- The Canadian Psychological Association - *Canadian Psychology*, *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, or *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*.
- The Psychonomic Society - *Behavior Research Methods, Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, *Learning & Behavior*, *Memory & Cognition*, *Perception & Psychophysics*, or *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

Other Assignment Guidelines: The summary should be about 300-500 words in length. The source must be cited and referenced in accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The review will be graded on a pass – fail basis (2% or 0%). At least **14 days before the end of classes** each term, submit the following to the course instructor:

- the article summary
- a copy of the article
- a cover page that specifies your name, student number, email address, and word count of the summary.
- the course title and number

Submitting the assignment 14 days in advance is necessary to ensure that you have an opportunity to make corrections, if required. If you do not check your email frequently, provide a phone number on the cover page.