

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module Code	PSY630
Module Title	Cyberpsychology
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Psychology	Option
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Foundation Year	Option

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs



For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 th May 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module will equip students with an understanding of the psychological processes, motivations, intentions, behavioural outcomes, and consequences of any form of technology use. Students will develop a critical understanding of the relevant psychological theories associated with positive and negative aspects of online behaviour.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically discuss the application of psychological theory and research that contributes to the exploration of behaviour, emotions, or experiences in relation to digital technology.
2	Critically explore the positive and/or negative aspects of behaviour in an online/digital world and its impact on the offline/real world.
3	Critically discuss a range of theories and/or methods of investigation employed in cyberpsychology.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

1. A 2000-word essay on a specified topic e.g., the contrasting approaches of differing schools of psychology to one of the key concepts covered by this module.
2. A 2000-word practical report e.g., individual perception of, or attitudes towards, digital communication.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	50
2	3	Written Assignment	50



Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A range of different learning and teaching strategies will be utilised in this module, including lectures, seminars, group, and individual activities, directed and self-directed learning, and tutorials. Module content will include pre-recorded asynchronous online content that will inform synchronous sessions. This will allow students time to reflect on and further develop their knowledge ahead of consolidating learning through group workshops and/or seminars. Synchronous seminars will involve group discussions, debates, and relevant online activities to support the module content. TEDx talks and related online resources will be used to support learning.

All learning and teaching methods are supported by the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students will be able to access clear and timely information to support the delivery of content such as videos, links to relevant online information, discussion forums, and pre-recorded lectures.

The University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) is embedded within the module to achieve optimal accessibility, inclusivity, and flexibility in terms of teaching and learning. This is in line with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A learning blend is used that combines synchronous and asynchronous digitally enabled learning with best use of online opportunities and on-campus spaces and facilities.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- An introduction to Cyberpsychology
- Digital technology across the lifespan
- The 'self' online
- Social media: networking, groups, and communities
- Interaction and interactivity
- Negative consequences of digital technology
- Health and technology

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Kirwan, G., Connolly, I., Barton, H., & Palmer, M. (Eds.). (2024). *An introduction to cyberpsychology* (2nd edn.). Routledge



Other indicative reading

Attrill, A. (Ed). (2015). *Cyberpsychology*. Open University Press.

Harley, D., Morgan, J., & Frith, H. (2019). *Cyberpsychology as everyday digital experience across the lifespan*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Whitty, M. T., & Young, G. (2017). *Cyberpsychology: The study of individuals, society, and digital technologies*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd

Journals:

Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research in Cyberspace

Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking

