

Module code	SEL614	Level	6
Module title	Cyber-psychology: Understanding Digital Behaviour	Credit value	10
Common/Core/ Elective	Elective	ECTS Credits	5
		Notional learning hours	100
Courses on which the module is taught	All	Teaching Period	Autumn/ Spring

1. Module description

This module will introduce you to the topic of cyberpsychology. This is an emerging, inter-disciplinary and naturally applied field that utilises scientific practices to examine human behaviours that result from interactions with digital technology and the internet. Built on the foundations of traditional psychology, cyberpsychology posits how the integration of, and interactions with, digital technologies in modern life impacts behaviour.

In this module, you may cover topics such as: the online self, technology across the lifespan, computer-mediated communication, online group behaviour and communities, social media use, online consumer behaviour and marketing, health and technology, gaming behaviours and virtual reality, cybercrime and security, internet-mediated research, and misconceptions and debates in cyberpsychology.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Decision Making (MLO 04)

Formulate informed decisions on the applications of cyber-psychology using critical and reflexive thinking.

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)

Critique and synthesise theories, concepts, and facts from cyber-psychology.

Interdisciplinary Perspective (MLO 09)

Integrate perspectives from different disciplines in understanding digital behaviour.

3. Learning and teaching methods

Classes for the module use a range of learning and teaching methods to facilitate understanding in principles and applications of cyber-psychology, such as individual and group activities, in-class practical demonstrations, topic-based debates, essential and recommended reading, micro-lectures, and personal reflections.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	36 hours
Workshops/classes	36
Guided/Self-guided learning	64 hours
Total	100

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment: Case study

Weight (%): 100

Word Count or Equivalent: 1,800 words

You will design, conduct, and write up a case study on your own digital behaviour. The case study report submission will contain a critical summary of relevant cyber-psychological literature, details of your case study, your findings, and a discussion of possible inter-disciplinary applications.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module

Assessment tasks	MLO4	MLO7	MLO9							
Case study report	X	X	X							

5. Indicative resources

Books:

Attrill-Smith, A., Fullwood, C., Keep, M., & Kuss, D. J. (2019). *The Oxford Handbook of Cyberpsychology*. Oxford University Press.

Connolly, I., Palmer, M., Barton, H., & Kirwan, G. (2016). *An Introduction to Cyberpsychology*. Routledge.

Kaye, L. K. (2022). *Issues and Debates in Cyberpsychology*. Open University Press.

Norman, K. (2017). *Cyberpsychology: An Introduction to Human-Computer Interactions* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Journals:

Computers in Human Behaviour, Cyberpsychology, Behaviour and Social Networking, Technology, Mind and Behavior

Websites:

BPS Cyberpsychology Section:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/member-networks/cyberpsychology-section>