DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT (MODULE)

Name of the subject (module)	Code
Psychology of the media and the Internet	

Lecturer(s)	Subdivision(s)
Coordinating: assoc. prof. dr. Antanas Kairys **Other(s): asist. dr. Joshua Moreton; asist. dr. Olga Zamalijeva**	Institute of Psychology of the Faculty of Philosophy

Cycle of studies	Subject (module) level	Subject (module) type
First	Fields of study	Elective

Form of implementation	Execution period	Language(s) of execution
Online	Spring (4) Semester	English

Requirements for the student	
Pre-requisites: Introduction to psychology	**Related requirements (if any):**

Scope of the subject (module) in credits	Full student workload	Contact hours	Self-employment hours
5	135	32	103

Purpose of the subject (module): competencies developed in the study programme		
To introduce the psychological aspects of the media and the Internet, to encourage critical analysis of research and theoretical concepts in the psychology of the media and the Internet, to reflect on one's own and to analyze the peculiarities of the use of media and the Internet that are characteristic of others.		
Subject (module) study objectives	**Study methods**	**Assessment methods**
To understand the purpose and tasks of media and Internet psychology, know the basic regularities of a person's online behavior, the regularities of the impact of different media and their content, and know the theoretical models applied in media and internet psychology.	Lectures (problem teaching) with a demonstration of visual materials, discussions, simulation games, text analysis.	Written test
To apply the theoretical models of media and internet psychology and the results of research to the interpretation of the behavior of individuals and groups, to understand the impact that the media and the Internet can have on the behavior or well-being of individuals and groups.	Preparation and delivery of a presentation analyzing the psychological impact of the use of the media and the Internet.	Evaluation of the presentation.
Knowledge of the methods of researching media and internet psychology, to explain and interpret the results of media and Internet research, assess their validity, and will be able to	Lectures with a demonstration of the visual material. Preparation and delivery of a presentation analyzing the psychological	Written test. Evaluation of the presentation.

reflect on the ethical aspect of media and internet psychology research.	impact of the use of the media and the Internet. Diskusians.	
They will be able to offer alternatives (individual, group or educational) to solve psychological interpersonal, group, social or intercultural problems related to the media and the Internet.	Discussion. Case analysis.	Written test.
They will be able to communicate clearly and ethically about the results of media and internet psychology research, theoretical models, present personal experiences of using the media and the Internet, will be able to work effectively in a team and collaborate.	Preparation and delivery of a presentation analyzing the psychological impact of the use of the media and the Internet.	Evaluation of the presentation.
To understand the coherence and limitations of this knowledge and the interpretations of our current understanding.	Group work. Discussions, case studies. Preparation and delivery of a presentation analyzing the psychological impact of the use of the media and the Internet.	Evaluation of the presentation.

Subjects	Contact hours							Time and tasks of self-study	
	Lectures	Consultation	Workshops	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	Full contact work	Self-employment	Tasks
1. Module introduction. The concept of media and Internet psychology. The concept of generations and the use of media. The main theories of media and Internet psychology. Application of theories of other branches of psychology in media and Internet psychology.	2		2				2	9	Self-study of literature (Book 2 in the list of mandatory literature pages 20-51).
2. Media and Internet consumption. Features and motives of the media and internet user. Personality and media consumption. Personality and the Internet. Forecast of the personality traits of the user from the behavior on the Internet.			2				4	6	Independent studies of literature (Book 3 are mandatory in the list of literature pages 55-71).
3. The impact of violent information in the media. Aggression on the Internet. Violent computer games. Cyberbullying.	2		2				6	15	Independent literature (Book 1 in the list of compulsory literature pages 255 – 285; 2 books in the list of compulsory literature pages 85 – 95; 3 books pages 76 – 81) Studies. Preparation and delivery of the presentation (analysis of the real-life situation) (students prepare presentations in groups)
4. Deceptions on the Internet, their psychological mechanism.			2				2	0	
5. Negative aspects of Internet consumption. Dependency. The consequences of children's time spent in front of screens. The use and well-being of the Internet.	2		2				2	9	Independent studies of literature (Book 2 are mandatory in the list of compulsory literature on pages 53 – 82). Preparation and delivery of the presentation (analysis of the real life situation) (students prepare presentations in groups). Studies of information provided in a virtual

										learning environment.
6. Prosocial effects of the media and the Internet. Media, the Internet and health promotion. Media literacy. Mediation.			2					2	4	Independent studies of literature (Book 1 in the list of compulsory literature on pages 124 – 132). Preparation and delivery of the presentation (analysis of the real life situation) (students prepare presentations in groups). Studies of information provided in a virtual learning environment.
7. Media and socialgroups. Stereotyping. Identity and media. Identity and the Internet. Virtual communities. Polarisation.	2		2					4	12	Independent studies of literature (Book 1 is mandatory in the list of literature on pages 53 – 90 and pages 133 – 136). Preparation and delivery of the presentation (analysis of the real life situation) (students prepare presentations in groups)
8. Pornography and erotica on the Internet and in the media, the sychological effects of these phenomena.			2					2	10	Independent studies of literature (Book 1 in the list of compulsory literature 255 – 285 pages; 2 books 110 – 113 pages).
9. Friendship and communication via the Internet. Online romantic relationships. Online infidelity.	2		2					2	9	Self-contained literature (Book 4 in the list of mandatory literature pages 3-18; in the list of mandatory literature of 6 sources on pages 12-23.) studies. Preparation and delivery of the presentation (analysis of the real life situation) (students prepare presentations in groups)

Topic									Notes
10. Media and politics. Propaganda, public relations and psychological operations. Propaganda techniques. Fake news. Conspiracy theories. Privacy and safe internet use.		2					4	4	Self-study of literature (source 5 in the list of mandatory literature).
11. The latest trends in the study of the psychology of the Internet and media: the use of smart devices, gamification, and so on. The Internet as a research tool. The use of big data in psychological research.	2	2					2	2	Independent studies of literature (Book 2 are mandatory in the list of literature 185 - 190 pages).
Preparing for the exam								11	
Preparation of the presentation (in groups)								12	
Total	**12**	**24**					**32**	**103**	

Evaluation strategy	Weight in percent.	Billing time	Evaluation criteria
Written test	60	Session	The test will consistof 15-25 questions from the material taught during the lectures and independently studied. Questions are both closed and open, but of different weights. The total number of points is calculated and, based on the highest number of points scored in the group, is transformed into a grade. The test can also be performed at the VU Center for Electronic Studies and Examination.
Evaluation of the presenation	40	During the seminars	Attendance to seminars is mandatory, it is necessary to attend 75% of seminars. Those who do not attend the seminars will be denied access to the exam. Criteria for evaluating presentations prepared by students: 1. The logicality of the choice of the object of analysis; consistency and completeness of observation (30% grade). 2. The ability to apply the knowledge of psychology to the analysis of real-life situations; justification, reasoning of the ideas presented during the presentation (40% of the grade) 3. Smoothness of presentation, clarity, interestingness, audience engagement (30% grade). The presentation is prepared in groups, the size of the group depends on the number of students.

Author	Year of authorisation	Title	Periodical No. or the volume of the publication	Place of publication and publishing house or an online link
Compulsory literature				
1. Harris, R. J.	2004	A cognitive psychology of mass communication		Mahwah: LEA
2. Joinson, A. N (ed.)	2003	Understanding the psychology of internet behaviour: virtual worlds, real lives		Basingstoke: Palgrave

3. Gackenbach, J. (ed.)	2007	Psychology and the internet		Amsterdam: Elsevier Academic Press
4. Shyam Sundar, S. (ed.)	2015	The handbook of the psychology of communication technology		Malden: Willey
5 Pennycook, G., Rand, D. G.	2018	Lazy, not biased: Susceptibility to partisan fake news is better explained by lack of reasoning than by motivated reasoning	Cognition, Volume 188, July 2019, Pages 39-50	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2018.06.011
6. Finkel, E. J., Eastwick, P. W., Karney, B. R., Reis, H. T., Sprecher, S.	2012	Online Dating: A Critical Analysis From the Perspective of Psychological Science	Psychological Science in the Public Interest 13(1), 3 –66	DOI: 10.1177/1529100612436522
Further reading				
1. Joinson A. N (ed.)	2009	The Oxford handbook of internet psychology		Oxford : Oxford University Press
2. Boyd D.	2014	It's complicated. The social lives of networked teens.		New Haven: Yale University Press.
3. Comstock G., Scharrer E.	2005	The psychology of media and politics		Amsterdam: Elsevier Academic Press
4. McCrindle, Mark.	2014	The ABC of XYZ : understanding the global generations / Mark McCrindle		Bella Vista, NSW : McCrindle Publication
5. Kilbey, E.	2018	Childhood between screens		Vilnius: Writers' Union Publishing House