**SAMPLE Exam reading list for Comprehensive Exam (Rhetoric-Based)**

In a digital and post-pandemic era, mental health apps and online therapy have proliferated and changed fundamentally how care providers book, conduct, and complete therapy. Building from the premise that digital platforms like websites, apps, and social media have become that “front door” that potential clients “walk by” before deciding to take the steps needed to help themselves by engaging in therapy, my dissertation aims to examine mental health care in Canada by focusing on how it is currently mediated by technology. This exam reading list provides a theoretical foundation in methods and digital theory and subject matter section.

# **Area 1: Rhetorical Theory and Critical Discourse Methods**

This area of the exam reading list is focused on rhetorical theory and critical discourse methods. In addition to serving as the primary broad field area for my exams, this section of the list is especially relevant to my doctoral research because several areas of my dissertation require the use of these methods and theories to analyse mental health websites, apps, and platforms. Rhetorical concepts such as ethos and prosopopoeia will be examined to explore the relationship between users and mental health programs which purport to take the place of human therapists. Critical Discourse Methods will be used to examine mental health websites and care provider bios. These theories and tools will be foundational to the examination and analysis of mental health platforms and communities in my dissertation.

## Books

1. Aristotle, *Rhetoric*.
2. Bitzer, Lloyd F. 1968. “The Rhetorical Situation.” In *Philosophy and Rhetoric.*
3. Bonnin, Juan Eduardo. *Discourse and Mental Health: Voice, Inequality, and Resistance in Medical Settings*. Routledge, 2019, Abingdon UK.
4. Bourdieu, Pierre. *Language and Symbolic Power.* Polity Press, 1991, Cambridge UK.
5. Brown, Gillian and George Yule. *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge University Press, 1983, Cambridge UK.
6. Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action*. University of California Press, 1968.\*\*
7. Butler, Judith. *Excitable Speech*. Routledge, 1997, Abingdon UK.
8. Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble.* Routledge, 1990, New York NY.
9. Fairclough, Norman. *Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language*. Pearson Education Limited, 1995, Harlow UK.
10. Fairclough, Norman. *Language and Power*. Routledge, 2015, Abingdon UK.
11. Fowler, Roger. *Language in the News: Discourse and Ideology in the Press*. Routledge, 1991, New York NY.
12. Hastings, Janna. *Mental Health Ontologies: How We Talk About Mental Health, and Why It Matters in the Digital Age*. University of Exeter Press, 2020, Exeter UK.
13. Hess, Aaron and Amber Davisson Eds. *Theorizing Digital Rhetoric*. Routledge, 2017.
14. Johnstone, Barbara. *Discourse Analysis*. Wiley Blackwell, 2018, Oxford UK.
15. Kress, Gunther. *Multimodality: A social semiotic approach to contemporary communication*. Routledge, 2010, Abingdon UK.
16. Kress, Gunther and Theo van Leeuwen. *Reading Images: The Grammar of Visual Design*. Routledge, 2021, New York NY.
17. Lacan, Jacques. *The Language of the Self: The Function of Language in Psychoanalysis*.
18. Machin, David and Andrew Mayr. *How To Do Critical Discourse Analysis*. SAGE Publications, 2015, London UK.
19. Malloy, Catherine. *Rhetorical Ethos in Health and Medicine: Patient Credibility, Stigma, and Misdiagnosis.* London: Routledge, 2019.
20. Segal, Judy. *The Rhetoric of Medicine.* Carbondale: Soutghern Illinois University Pres, 2005
21. Wodak, Ruth and Michael Meyer. *Methods of Critical Discourse Studies*. SAGE Publications, 2016, London UK.

## Articles/Chapters

1. Blankfield, Bryan. “The Rhetoric of Prosopopoeia: Persuading in Others’ Voices.” In The *Routledge Handbook of Language and Persuasion*, 2022.
2. Brookes, Gavin, Kevin Harvey, and Svenja Adolphs. “Discourse and health(care).” *The Routledge Handbook of Discourse Analysis.* 2nd EditionEds. Michael Handford, James Paul Gee. London: Routledge, 2023
3. Miller, Carolyn R. 2003. “Writing in a Culture of Simulation: Ethos Online.” In *Towards a Rhetoric of Everyday Life: New Directions in Research on Writing, Text, and Discourse*, edited by Martin Nystrand and John Duffy, 58–83. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press.
4. Nass, Clifford, Jonathan Steuer, Ellen Tauber, and Heidi Reeder. 1993. “Anthropomorphism, Agency, and Ethopoeia: Computers as Social Actors.” *In INTERACT ’93 and CHI ’93 Conference Companion on Human Factors in Computing Systems,* 111–12. CHI ’93. New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/259964.260137>.
5. Sánchez, Fernando. “Distributed and Mediated Ethos in a Mental Health Call Center.” *Rhetoric of Health & Medicine*, Volume 3, Number 2, Spring 2020, pp. 133-162

# **Area 2: Digital Media Studies and Design**

This area of the exam reading list is focused on Digital Media Studies and Design, with an emphasis on theories that focus on equity, data justice, and accessible design principles. Digital media theories will form the foundation to help in the examination of mental health platforms and communities. The recommendations section of the dissertation will consider this corpus by bringing together best practices and principles of accessible design, equity, and data with the lens of mental health technologies in mind.

## Books

1. Aschoff, Nicole. *The Smartphone Society: Technology, Power, and Resistance in the New Gilded Age*. Beacon Press, 2020, Boston, MA.
2. Benjamin, Ruha. *Race After Technology.* Polity Press, 2019, Cambridge UK.
3. Bolter, Jay David and Richard Grusin. *Remediation: Understanding New Media*. MIT Press, 2001, Cambridge, MA.
4. Cheney-Lippold, John. *We are data: Algorithms and the making of our digital selves.*NYU Press, 2017. ***\*\****
5. Coleman, Beth. *Hello Avatar: Rise of the Networked Generation*. MIT Press, 2023. \*\*
6. Costanza-Chock, Sasha. *Design Justice: Community-Led Practices to Build the Worlds We Need*. The MIT Press, 2020\*\*
7. Couldry, Nick and Andreas Hepp. *The Mediated Construction of Reality*. Polity Press, 2017, Cambridge UK.
8. Couldry, Nick & Mejias, Ulises. *The Costs of Connection: How Data Is Colonizing Human Life and Appropriating It for Capitalism*. Stanford University Press, 2019\*\*
9. D’Ignazio, Catherine and Lauren F. Klein. *Data Feminism*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2020, Cambridge MA.
10. Daniels, Jessie, Karen Gregory, and Tressie McMillan Cottom Eds. *Digital Sociologies*. Policy Press, 2017, Bristol UK.
11. Friedman, Batya, and David G. Hendry. *Value Sensitive Design: Shaping Technology with Moral Imagination*. The MIT Press, 2019.\*\*
12. Hansen, Mark. *Bodies in Code: Interfaces with Digital Media*. Routledge, 2007.
13. Hine, Christine Ed. *Virtual Methods: Issues in Social Research on the Internet*. Bloomsbury, 2005.
14. Hine, Christine. *Ethnography for the Internet: Embedded, Embodied, and Everyday*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2015, London UK
15. Hayles, N. Katherine. H*ow We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. University of Chicago Press, 1999, Chicago IL.
16. McLuhan, Marshall. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. MIT Press, 1997. \*\*
17. Manovich, Lev. *The Language of New Media*. MIT Press, 2001, Cambridge, MA
18. McNeil, Joanne. *Lurking: How a Person Became a User.* Picador, 2020, New York, NY.
19. Norman, Don. *Design for a Better World*. MIT Press, 2023, Cambridge, MA.
20. Parrika, Jussi and Erkki Huhtamo Eds. *Media Archaeology: Approaches, Applications, and Implications*. University of California Press, 2011.\*\*
21. Papacharissi, Zizi. Ed. *A Networked Self: Identity, Community, and Culture on Social Network Sites*. Routledge, 2011, New York, NY.
22. Perez, Caroline Criado. *Invisible Women: Data Bias In A World Designed for Men*. Abrams Press, 2019, New York NY.
23. Poletti, Anna and Julie Rak Eds. *Identity Technologies: Constructing the Self Online*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2014, Madison WI
24. Pols J. *Care at a Distance: On the Closeness of Technology*. Amsterdam  
    University Press, 2012.
25. Rohlinger, Deana A. *New Media and Society.* New York University Press, 2019, New York, NY.
26. Turkle, Sherry. *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*. Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, 1995, New York NY.

## Journal Articles

1. Beck, Estee N. “The Invisible Digital Identity: Assemblages in Digital Networks.” *Computers and Composition*, 2015, Vol 35., pages 125-140
2. Beck, Estee. “A Theory of Persuasive Computer Algorithms for Rhetorical Code Studies”. *Enculturation: a journal of rhetoric, writing, and culture*, November 22, 2016.
3. Dillet, Benoit. “Speaking to algorithms? Rhetorical political analysis as technological analysis”. *Political Studies Association*, Special Issue: Rhetorical Approaches in Political Studies, 2020, pages 1-16.
4. Burget, Mirjam, et al. “Definitions and Conceptual Dimensions of Responsible Research and Innovation: A Literature Review.” *Science and Engineering Ethics*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2017, pp. 1–19, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-016-9782-1>.  **\*\***
5. Green, Ben. “The Contestation of Tech Ethics: A Sociotechnical Approach to Technology Ethics in Practice.” *Journal of Social Computing*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2021, pp. 209–25, <https://doi.org/10.23919/JSC.2021.0018>.  **\*\***
6. Koops, BJ. (2015). The Concepts, Approaches, and Applications of Responsible Innovation. In: Koops, BJ., Oosterlaken, I., Romijn, H., Swierstra, T., van den Hoven, J. (eds) *Responsible Innovation 2*. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-17308-5_1>.  **\*\***

# **Area 3: Health Humanities and Mental Health**

This section of the exam list centres on my research interests and topics. This dissertation aims to examine mental health care in Canada by focusing on how it is currently mediated by technology in several different venues: 1. How mental health agencies and providers represent themselves on their websites; 2. How mental health apps represent their services and their AI representatives; and 3. How people use spaces like Reddit subreddits to converse about their mental health. The Health Humanities section provides topic-specific content, related to the theme of the dissertation.

## Books

1. Allan, Julie and Valerie Harwood. *On the Self: Discourses of Mental Health and Education*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2022. \*\*
2. Banner, Olivia. *Communicative Biocapitalism: The Voice of the Patient in Digital Health and the Health Humanities*. University of Michigan Press, 2017 \*\*
3. Blank, Trevor J. and Andrea Kitta. *Diagnosing Folklore: Perspectives on Disability, Health, and Trauma*. University Press of Mississippi, 2015, USA.
4. Clare, Eli. *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling With Cure*. Duke University Press, 2017, Durham NC.
5. Crawford, Paul et al. *Health Humanities*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, Hargrave, UK.
6. Crawford, P., Brown, B., & Charise, A. (Eds.). T*he Routledge Companion to Health Humanities* (1st ed.). Routledge,2020. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429469060> (Chapter 1 [The health humanities, genealogies of health care, and the consolation of understanding,](https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9780429469060-3/health-humanities-genealogies-health-care-consolation-understanding-brian-brown?context=ubx&refId=7bea0155-9da1-4af5-9588-d1aeaaeb7ba4) Chapter 7 Representations of medical and health delivery paradigms, Chapter 14 Co-Design as a democratizing force, Chapter 16 Accessibility and advocacy in health humanities, Chapter 35 – Life writing
7. Dolmage, Jay Timothy. *Disability Rhetoric*. Syracuse University Press, 2014, New York NY.
8. Goodley, Dan. *Disability and Other Human Questions*. Emerald House Publishing, 2021, Bingley UK.
9. Graham, S. Scott. *The Doctor and the Algorithm*. Oxford University Press, 2022, New York NY.
10. Haraway, Donna J. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. Free Association Books, 1991, London UK.
11. Hunt, Daniel and Gavin Brooks. *Corpus, Discourse and Mental Health*. Bloomsbury, 2020\*\*
12. Miah, A., and E. Rich. *The Medicalization of Cyberspace*. Routledge, 2008, London. \*\*
13. Meloncon, Lisa and J. Blake Scott Eds. *Methodologies for the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*. Routledge, 2018, New York NY.
14. Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi. *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018, Vancouver BC.
15. Rose, Nikolas. *Inventing our Selves: Psychology, Power, and Personhood.*Cambridge University Press, 2010. \*\*
16. Therese Jones, Delese Wear, and Lester D. Friedman (eds). *Health Humanities Reader* . Rutgers University Press, 2014. (Chapter 1 Being a Good Story: The Humanities as Therapeutic Practice; Chapter 12 Social Studies: The Humanities, Narrative, and the Social Context of the Patient-Professional Relationship; Chapter 25 Race and Mental Health; Chapter 31 Narrating Our Sadness, with a Little Help from Humanities)
17. Topol, Eric. *Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again*. Basic Books, 2019, New York NY.
18. Yergeau, Melanie. *Authoring Autism: On Rhetoric and Neurological Queerness*. Duke University Press, 2018, Durham NC.

## Journal Articles and Chapters

1. D’Alfonso, Simon. “AI in Mental Health”. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 2020, Vol 36, pages 112-117
2. Dekker, Izaak et el. “Optimizing Students’ Mental Health and Academic Performance: AI-Enhanced Life Crafting.” *Frontiers in Psychology*, June 2020, Vol. 11.
3. Elraz, Hadar. “Identity, mental health and work: How employees with mental health conditions recount stigma and the pejorative discourse of mental illness.” *Human Relations*, 2018, Vol. 71, pages 722-741.
4. Haertl, Kristine Lynn and Adrienne Maiers Ero-Phillips. “The healing properties of writing for persons with mental health conditions.” *Arts and Health*, 2019, Vol 11, 15-25.
5. Jhangiani, Surita Jassal and Jennifer A. Vadeboncoeur. “Health Care ‘As Usual’: The Insertion of Positive Psychology in Canadian Mental Health Discourse.” *Mind, Culture, and Activity*, 2010, Vol 17, pages 169-184.
6. Klugman, Craig M., Erin Gentry Lamb, and Kirsten Ostherr, 'Digital Health Humanities', in Craig M. Klugman, and Erin Gentry Lamb (eds), *Research Methods in Health Humanities* (New York, 2019; online edn, Oxford Academic, 1 Aug. 2019),\*\*
7. Mort, M., and A. Smith. 2009. ‘Beyond Information: Intimate Relations in Sociotechnical Practice.’ *Sociology* 43(2): 215–31.
8. O’Riordan, K. . ‘Revisiting Digital Technologies: Envisioning Biodigital Bodies.’ *Communications,* 2011,36(3): 291–312.
9. O’Sullivan, Saughnagh et al. “Understanding What Drive Long-term Engagement in Digital Mental Health Interventions: Secondary Causal Analysis of the Relationship Between Social Networking and Therapy Engagement.” *JMIR Mental Health*, 2023, Vol. 10.
10. Pietrzak-Franger M Postdigital health practices: new directions in medical humanities *Medical Humanities* 2023;**49:**503-510.\*\*
11. Van de Ven I, van Nuenen T. “Digital hermeneutics: scaled readings of online depression discourses”. *Medical Humanities.* 2022, **48:** 335-346.
12. Villongco, Christopher and Fazal Khan. “’Sorry I Didn’t Hear You.’ The Ethics of Voice Computing and AI in High Risk Mental Health Populations.” *AJOB Neuroscience*, 2020, Vol. 11, Iss. 2, pages 105-112
13. Wyder, Marianne et al. “The language we use- the effect of writing mental health care plans in the first person.” *Australasian Psychiatry*, 2018, Vol 26, Pages 496-502

## **[ONLY IF NEEDED; DISCUSS WITH COMMITTEE]**

## Object texts that could be used for analysis

1. Apps and their websites:
   1. Headspace
   2. Happify
   3. Moodkit
   4. Sanvello
2. Care provider websites:
   1. Transformation counselling
   2. Exhale therapy
   3. Bliss Counselling and Psychotherapy
   4. KW Counselling
   5. Waterloo Psychology Group
3. Social media profiles
   1. Dreadful Bird TikTok
   2. Madam Adam TikTok
   3. Toren\_Wolf TikTok
   4. Therapy\_with\_jess TikTok
   5. Healwithbritt TikTok
4. UWaterloo subreddit
   1. Search for Counselling Services
   2. Search for Mental Health
   3. Search for Serious