

Psychology 3450 3.0 A (Fall) ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2014
Wednesday, 8:30-11:30
CLH-C

Course Director

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Office Hours:

Wednesday, 11:30-1:30 or by appointment

Purpose:

This course is intended for the student who wants a survey of the growing field of environmental psychology. Topics such as methodology, crowding, privacy, urbanism, personal space, territoriality, energy conservation, recycling, traffic psychology and environmental influences on social behaviours will be covered.

Required Text:

Bell, P. A., Greene, T. C., Fisher, J. D., & Baum, A. (2001). *Environmental Psychology (5th edition)*. Toronto: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Note: The text has been reprinted (very crudely!) and the version that the bookstore will carry is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, New Jersey. The text is available only from the York Bookstore.

PowerPoint Material:

Lectures are presented by means of PowerPoint presentations. The slides contain lecture outlines, diagrams, graphs, and some visual materials. The outlines are posted on my website. Please note that a substantial quantity of visual material is NOT posted on this website and will only be presented during the lectures.

Grading:

Grading will be based on a series of three examinations (Exam 1 = 40%, Exam 2 = 40%, Exam 3 = 20%) consisting of multiple choice questions. All examinations will cover both the assigned readings and lecture material. Examinations may be “curved,” if necessary, by examining the graphic distribution of scores and apportioning letter grades to the various segments of the distribution.

There will be no “make-up” test unless the request is accompanied by an “Attending Physician’s Statement” (available from the Registrar’s Office or downloadable from www.yorku.ca/grads/forms/NEW/attending_physician_statement.pdf). If you are ill, the teaching assistant must be contacted within 48 hours of the test. Therefore, if you do become ill at any point in the term, it is wise to obtain a statement to that effect from your physician. The make-up test may consist of essay questions and will only be administered following the third exam.

Contact Information

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. Given the volume of “spam” mailings that I receive (and delete without opening), I am requesting that if you are not e-mailing me from your York University account (these accounts begin with “yu”), you indicate the course number in the subject line of all mailings. Mail not containing this designation will be deleted unread.

I will not repeat announcements or other material given in lecture to you in individual mailings. Should you be unable to attend class, check the course outline and PowerPoint material that is posted on my website for an overview of what was covered in lecture.

If you are ill and cannot write an examination, please note that you are required to notify us. I am requesting that you contact the teaching assistant and cc me as well in your email. I would also call your attention to the 48 hour window involved with such notifications.

Lectures

Download PowerPoint Viewer to see PPT files [here](#).

Date	Topic	Lectures
September 10	Overview of environmental psychology	Orientation & Introduction
September 17, 24	Methods & Theories	Methodology
October 1	Privacy & Personal Space	Privacy
October 8	EXAM ! Territoriality & Environmental Design	
October 15	Territoriality & Environmental Design/ Technological Disasters	Geographic profiling Territoriality Defensible space Homelessness Technological catastrophe
Oct. 22	Crowding/Environmental Stress Urban Psychology & Models of Urbanism	Crowding, Noise & Stress Wind turbines Urbanism (revised) Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
Oct.29-Nov.2	Co-Curricular Week	No classes
Nov. 5	Vandalism	Vandalism
November 12, 19, 26	EXAM 2 Applications of environmental psychology: Traffic psychology and driver behaviour	Traffic psychology "Havoc on the Highway" Evolutionary psychology & driving Road safety & health OPP study of aggressive driving Techniques for controlling aggressive driving
Dec 3	EXAM 3	

Note: November 7th is the last day to withdraw from a course without receiving a grade. See <http://yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw14.htm> for additional deadlines.

Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading	Video
September 10	Overview of environmental psychology	<p>1, 2</p> <p>Optional: For those interested in policy recommendations for Canadian environmental problems, see Divided we fail: The Tar Sands vs. the rest of Canada and Up to the gills: Pollution in Great Lakes fish</p> <p><i>Canadian Psychology</i> recently published a number of articles applying environmental psychology to sustainability, climate change, building conditions and health, and the application of health psychology to environmental action.</p> <p>If you are interested in reading what is happening in Ontario, see these documents: Annual Report of the Ontario Environmental Commissioner (2009-2010) ("Redefining Conservation") and the latest report: "Engaging Solutions: Annual report 2010-2011"</p> <p>The Ontario Environmental Commissioner released the 2013 report Losing Our Touch Part 1 and Part 2 See also the David Suzuki Foundation's: "Carbon in the Bank: Ontario's Greenbelt and its Role in Mitigating Climate Change". See also Canada's Wealth of Natural Capital: Rouge National Park</p>	
September 17, 24	Methods & Theories	3, 4	
October 1	Privacy & Personal Space	8 (pp251-276) (pp415-430)	<i>Beyond Shelter</i>

		Optional: for those interested in Canadian policy/issues in privacy, see the Office of the Privacy Commissioner	
October 8	Exam 1	Optional: information on Oscar Newman and Defensible Space For a critical article on defensible space, see Reynald & Elffers paper	<i>Writing on the Wall</i>
October 15	Territoriality & Environmental Design/ Technological Disasters	8 (pp276-290), 11, 12	
Oct. 22, 29	Crowding/Environmental Stress & Noise	5, 6, 7, 9 for information on noise laws, see Canadian noise standards	CBC Marketplace Noise feature
Oct. 22, 29	Urban psychology & models of urbanism	Optional: Harold Takooshian has a short article on the history and current status of urban psychology Optional: the American Psychological Association has a report Toward an urban psychology: Research, action, and policy Optional: A review compiled by the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto listing research pertaining to homelessness in Toronto New: " Surviving Crime & Violence " (street youth & violence/interview survey)	<i>The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces</i> (Oct. 22)
Oct. 29- Nov. 2	Co-Curricular Days	No classes	
Nov 5	Vandalism		
Nov. 12	Exam 2		
Nov.13, 19, 26	Applications of environmental psychology: Traffic psychology & driver behaviour	13,14 Optional: The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) in Ottawa has yearly surveys of Canadian public opinion related to a variety of road safety issues--distracted driving, speeding,	<i>Road rage: Havoc on the Highway</i> (November 22)

		<p>aggressive driving, etc.</p> <p>Optional: For a report on Canadian and international public policy issues related to cell phone use and distracted driving see the report by Harbluk and associates</p> <p>For those interested in bicycle safety, see this report analyzing bicycle and motor vehicle collisions in Toronto</p>	
Dec. 3	Exam 3		

Note: All videos are available for viewing at the Sound and Moving Image Library (Scott) on a drop-in basis.

Guidelines for Missed Tests and Examinations

1. The student must contact the instructor in person or by telephone or by E-mail within 48 hours of the test or examination. If you do not speak to the instructor directly, you must leave a message on his/her voicemail or with his/her secretary. Be sure to clearly state your name, student number, course, and a number/time at which you can be reached. If you are unable to contact the course instructor during this 48-hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

2. Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed test or examination must be provided prior to or at the time specified by the instructor. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed test.

A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an [Attending Physician's Statement](#) or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor. The Attending Physician's Statement must include (1) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question. Note: The Physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the Physician.

B. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with the date of booking on the ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure and return dates.

3. The manner in which the missed test (which has been legitimately documented) will be handled at the discretion of the instructor and should be outlined by the instructor at the beginning of the course (i.e., within the first two weeks). Some examples are provided below (e.g., no make-up but prorating of missed grade; make-up provided with time specified by instructor).

For example:

a) In the case in which NO MAKE-UP opportunity is provided, the grade component will be distributed across other evaluative components of the course (to be specified by instructor).

b) In the case of a make-up test/examination, the student must be prepared to write within the week following the missed test (a date will be set by the instructor). Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test/examination. It should be clearly stated that it is the student's responsibility to check with the instructor or Teaching Assistant as to the date/time of the make-up (this information can also be posted outside the T.A.'s door). A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). If a student misses a make-up opportunity for good reasons (see points A and B above), then the prorating option is applied; there is no second opportunity for a make-up. It should be clearly stated that missed make-ups must be supported by appropriate documentation (see points A and B above).

Note: Please keep the following points in mind: The total value of any test(s) or examination(s) given in the last two weeks of classes in a term must be worth no more than 20% of the final grade for the course. Deferred tests should not be set during the final examinations period (unless it is with the consent of the student). The weighting of missed tests can be added on to a final examination, but a test should not be written along with a final examination (i.e., a student should not be required to write a two or three hour final exam, and a deferred test back to back, unless the student has consented to the arrangement).

The makeup exams for Exam 1 & Exam 2 will be held on November 29, 2014.