

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3450 Section A
ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2016**

Instructor and T.A. Information

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***Note: Please use PSYC3450 in the subject line; otherwise, emails will be will be deleted unread ***

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Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to explore the interaction between people and their environments: how our behavior affects our environment and how that environment, in turn, influences our behaviour, by examining an array of critical issues in environmental psychology. Topics such as methodology, crowding, privacy, urbanism, personal space, territoriality, energy conservation, recycling, and environmental influences on social behaviours will be covered. In addressing these issues, the course will provide a critical framework for understanding the role of the environment in our everyday lives.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in environmental psychology.
2. Articulate trends in environmental psychology.
3. Express knowledge of environmental psychology in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings on environmental psychology.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information on environmental psychology to own and others' life experiences.

Required Text

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be **3 in-class exams**. Exam 1 (Oct. 5) and Exam 2 (Nov. 16) are each worth 40% of your final grade. Exam 3 (Nov. 30) is worth 20% of your final grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions, and are NOT cumulative. Material presented *in-class* (including films) and *required readings* from the textbook will be included on the exams. Although not all text material will be covered in class, students will be responsible for all text material on examinations. It is important that you show up for all exams on time, as no late students will be allowed to write the exam following any student's departure from the exam room.

Your final grade for the course will be based on the above breakdown; I will not arbitrarily raise marks (e.g., “bumping”).

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes)

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Make-up exams will be granted only under exceptional circumstances, such as **serious** illness, or death in the immediate family. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teaching assistant (and instructor) in person, by telephone, or by email, within 48 hours of the missed exam. You must contact the TA to arrange a date and time. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed exam. 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). **NOTE:** Only extremely unusual circumstances would warrant a second chance at a make-up.

Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for a missed exam must be provided to the teaching assistant prior to the make up exam.

- A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of *medical circumstances* must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement from the Office of the Registrar (**NO other forms will be accepted**). The Attending Physician's Statement can be downloaded from:

<http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>

NOTE: the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

- B. Tests or examinations missed on 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, etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Missing an exam for a vacation etc. is not an acceptable reason for a make-up exam. Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.

If a make-up examination is granted, the student must be prepared to write within the week following the missed examination. The teaching assistant will select the date and time of the make-up examination. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teaching assistant as to the date/time of the make-up.

Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original examination. For instance, instead of multiple choice, the make-up examination may consist of essay questions. 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).

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Important Dates](#)

Important dates	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 18
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Feb. 1
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript – see note below)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 5	Feb. 11 - Apr. 5	March 11 - Apr. 5

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. Reading the textbook and listening in class are essential for successful performance in this course. If you miss a lecture, it is your own responsibility to find out what you have missed (e.g. by asking a fellow classmate for their notes); the instructor and teaching assistant do not provide lecture notes for students.

Student Conduct

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship.

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

Test Banks:

The use of test banks is not permitted in this course and may be considered a potential breach of academic honesty. This includes but is not limited too; buying or selling test banks.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#)

Course Materials Copyright Information:

These course materials are designed for use as part of the HH/PSYC 3450 3.0A course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#)

Course Schedule:

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	CHAPTER
September 14	Overview of Environmental Psychology	Chap. 1 Chap. 2
September 21	Methods and Theories	Chap. 3 Chap. 4
September 28	Privacy and Personal Space	Chap. 8 (pp. 251-276) Chap. 12 (pp. 415-430) Optional: for those interested in Canadian policy/issues in privacy, see the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (https://www.priv.gc.ca/) Video: Beyond Shelter
October 5	Exam 1	Video: Writing on the Wall
October 12	No class – Yom Kippur	
October 19	Territoriality Territorial & Environmental Design	Chap. 8 (pp. 276-290) Chap. 11 Chap. 12
October 26	Crowding/Environmental Stress	Chap. 5 Chap. 6 Chap. 7 Chap. 9
November 2	Urban Psychology/Vandalism	Chap. 10 (pp. 334-346) Chap. 10 (pp. 349-355) Chap. 10 (pp. 361-370)
November 9	Urban Psychology/Vandalism	Video: Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
November 16	Exam 2	
November 23	Traffic Psychology & Driver Behaviour	Chap. 13 Chap. 14 Video: Road Rage: Havoc on the Highways
November 30	Exam 3	

Note: All videos are available for viewing at the Sound and Moving Image Library (Scott) on a drop-in basis. Any Changes to the Syllabus will be announced in class. Students are responsible for obtaining information on any changes.