Overview

How are people affected by overcrowding, traffic congestion, and noise? Why do people litter or vandalize their environments? How do buildings affect their occupants? Does the architectural design of apartment buildings influence patterns of neighboring and friendship formation? Why do people consume scarce environmental resources? Can residential, work, and neighborhood settings be designed to reduce stress, increase productivity, and promote physical activity? These are some of the questions that have concerned environmental psychologists.

*Environmental psychology* is the study of human behavior and well-being in relation to the large-scale, sociophysical environment. The term, *large-scale environment*, refers to places such as homes, offices, neighborhoods, and whole communities. These places can be described in terms of several physical and social dimensions, including their geographical location, architectural design, membership and social organization. The term, *sociophysical environment*, reflects the assumption that the physical and social dimensions of places are closely intertwined. The architectural design of a housing complex, for example, can exert a subtle but substantial impact on the friendship patterns that develop among residents. This course emphasizes the interdependence between physical and social aspects of places, rather than viewing these dimensions as separate and isolated.

Organization

In the initial portion of the course, we consider certain organizing principles that environmental psychology shares with other areas of Social Ecology. We then focus on the basic psychological processes by which people interact with their surroundings: *interpretation, evaluation, action, and response*. After considering existing theory and research relating to these processes, we examine some of the practical applications of this research in areas such as architecture, health promotion, facilities management, education, and urban design.

Course Requirements

The required texts for this course are:

1. Hall, *The Hidden Dimension* (HD)
2. Lynch, *The Image of the City* (TIC)

These texts have been placed on reserve at the library. You are also responsible for reading the required articles listed in the attached course calendar. These additional required readings can be downloaded from the class web files folder. You can obtain a UCI Web Files account at: [http://webfiles.uci.edu/](http://webfiles.uci.edu/). Class attendance and participation are essential as the lectures will provide information on various topics not covered in the texts. The URLs for the Web Files folders of readings and lecture slides are below:
Readings: https://webfiles.uci.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-7970316_1
Lectures Slides: https://webfiles.uci.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-7970389_1

Also, please review UCI’s Principles of Community and Academic Honesty—these are an essential part of the course requirements: http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#gen1.

**Exams and Course Assignments**

There will be two exams in this course:

**Midterm Exam on Thursday, May 10**, covering the material discussed between Tuesday, April 3 and Tuesday, May 8; and

**Final Exam on Thursday, June 14 from 4-6 PM**, covering the material discussed between Tuesday, May 15 and Thursday, June 7. Each exam will constitute 40% of your course grade. Information about the formatting of exam questions will be provided in class prior to each exam.

Each exam will constitute **40%** of your course grade. Information about the formatting of exam questions will be provided in class prior to each exam.

In addition to the exams, **four take-home assignments** involving applications and observations of environment-behavior principles are accessible from the course web site; each will be explained in class and should be handed in at the beginning of the following class meeting. These assignments are short exercises designed to increase your awareness of the topics covered in class. The four take-home assignments will count for **10%** of your course grade. Be sure to check the course web site for the due dates of these assignments.

You are expected to carefully review all assigned readings listed in the attached course calendar prior to discussion of those readings in class; and to attend and participate actively in class discussions each week. Attendance and class participation are very important in this class. You will be encouraged to join in class discussions and participate in in-class activities and demonstrations. Your active participation in class sessions will count for **10%** of your grade in the course.

**Grading**

Your scores on the two exams, take home assignments, and course participation will be added and a grading curve will be derived from the distribution of total scores. Your grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Extra Credit**

You will have an opportunity to earn extra credit points. These extra points are added to your total score based on the exams, take home assignments, and class participation. Extra credit points may enable you to earn a higher grade than you would have received had the extra assignment not been completed. If you would like to propose an extra credit project please e-mail a brief description (no more than a short paragraph) of your project idea to environmentalpsy@gmail.com. We will review your proposal and let you know if it is approved. There is a limit of one extra credit project per student.

Extra Credit Assignment Options include the following: (1) prepare a *poster board* that displays photographs depicting one or more principles covered in class, and include brief annotations explaining how each photo illustrates a specific course concept; or (2) develop a video (e.g., on YouTube or your own web site) or an online BLOG that explains and illustrates a particular course concept. You can earn up to 3 extra credit points for the quarter. **Point allocations will depend on the quality and depth of descriptions and illustrations provided for one or more course concepts.** Also, we will select the five best extra credit projects submitted and award those projects up to a maximum of five extra credit points for the quarter. We will post photos of the winning projects at the end of the quarter.
ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Schedule of Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

Link to Course Readings (UCI Webfiles Account Required):
https://webfiles.uci.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-7970316_1

Section I. Introduction and Overview

Tuesday
April 3

Assignment:

http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/soc/07-07ObesityIK-.asp


Thursday
April 5

Assignment:


The Internet sites listed below provide additional information about the field of environmental psychology:

Division of Population and Environmental Psychology, American Psychological Association
http://www.apa.org/about/division/div34.aspx

Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)
http://www.edra.org

Environmental Psychology Division of the International Association for Applied Psychology
Section II. Organizing Principles

Tuesday
April 10

**Systems Theory, Ecology, and Multiple Levels of Analysis**

Assignment:


Thursday
April 12

**Systems Theory (cont.)**

Assignment:


Section III. Processes of Person-Environment Transaction

Tuesday
April 17

**Interpreting the Environment: Environmental Cognition**

Assignment:


Lynch, TIC. Chapters 1 & 3, Appendix B (1-13, 46-90, 140-159).


**First Take-Home Assignment** on Cognitive Maps; Due Thursday April 19

Thursday
April 19

**Interpreting the Environment: Personality and Sociocultural Factors**

Assignment:


***Take-Home Assignment 1 Due

Sensation Seek Scale: [https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/Sensation_Seeking_Scale.pdf](https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/Sensation_Seeking_Scale.pdf)
SS-Form V & Key: [https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/SS=Form_V_%26_Key.pdf](https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/SS=Form_V_%26_Key.pdf)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>April 24</th>
<th>Evaluating the Environment: Environmental Attitudes and Assessment</th>
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</table>

**Second Take-Home Assignment on Physical Traces; Due Thursday April 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>April 26</th>
<th>Taking Action in the Environment: Territoriality and Personal Space</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall, HD. Chapters 1-2, 8-10 (pp. 1-22, 99-129).</td>
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***Take-Home Assignment 2 Due

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>May 1</th>
<th>Taking Action in the Environment: Determinants of Pro-Environmental Behavior</th>
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**Third Take-Home Assignment** on Density and Crowding; due Thursday May 3

**Thursday**  
**May 3**

**Responding to the Environment: Behavioral, Social, and Health Effects of Environmental Stressors**

**Assignment:**


***Take-Home Assignment 3 Due***

**Perceived Stress Scale:** [https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/PerceivedStressScale.pdf](https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/PerceivedStressScale.pdf)

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**Tuesday**  
**May 8**

**Responding to the Environment: The Physical Environment and Social Interaction**

**Assignment:**


**Film:**  
"*Livable Streets*" by Donald Appleyard

**Newman Defensible Space:** [https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/Newman-defspace.pdf](https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/Newman-defspace.pdf)

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**Thursday**  
**May 10**

***Midterm Exam (5:00-6:20 PM)***
(covers material discussed through May 8)

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**Tuesday**  
**May 15**

**Creating Livable Cities**

**Assignment:**
Hall, HD, 174-180.
Thursday
May 17

**Designing Effective Public Spaces**

**Assignment:**


Whyte, TSL, Chapters 1-5 & 11 (pp. 16-59, 94-101)

**Film:**

"The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" by William Whyte

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Tuesday
May 22

**Design Guidelines for Homes, Offices, Classrooms, and Hospitals**

**Assignment:**


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Thursday
May 24

**Environmental Psychology and Neighborhood Design**

**Assignment:**


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See also the following web site on the new urbanism and smart growth:

http://www.cnu.org/

http://www.smartgrowth.org/

**Tuesday**

**Natural Environments and Restorative Settings**

**Assignment:**


**Fourth Take-Home Assignment on Favorite Places; Due on Thursday May 31**

**Thursday**

**Virtual Environments: Environmental Psychology of the Internet**

**Assignment:**


***Take-Home Assignment 4 Due***

See also the following web sites for additional information on psychology and cyberspace:

The Digital Divide: A resource list
http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/chu/digdiv/

Americans in the Information Age: Falling Through the Net

The Psychology of Cyberspace
http://www usur.rider.edu/~suler/psycyber/psycyber.html

Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies
http://rccs.usfca.edu/

**Tuesday**

**Social-Structural Approaches to Environmental Change**

**Assignment:**


Thursday
June 7

**Evaluating Environmental Interventions**

**Assignment:**


Thursday
June 14

***Final Exam [4:00-6:00 PM]***

(covering material discussed between May 15 – June 7)