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. 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-8151955_1-s_ffKrKCBO](https://webfiles.uci.edu/xythoswfs/webui/ xy-8151955_1-s_ffKrKCBO)
Lectures: [https://webfiles.uci.edu/dstokols/EPSlides2016](https://webfiles.uci.edu/dstokols/EPSlides2016)
Also, please review UCI’s Principles of Academic Honesty and Community—these are an essential part of the course requirements: http://www.testingcenter.uci.edu/academichonesty.html
http://honesty.uci.edu/faculty.html
http://dos.uci.edu/conduct/students/code-of-student-conduct-principles-of-community.php

Exams and Course Assignments

There will be two exams in this course:

Midterm Exam on Thursday, February 11, from 5:00-6:20 PM, covering the material discussed between Tuesday, January 5 and Tuesday, February 9; and

Final Exam on Thursday, March 17 from 4:00-6:00 PM, covering the material discussed between Tuesday, February 16 and Thursday, March 10. Each exam will constitute 35% 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 uploaded to the homework drop box on the EEE course web site by no later than 11:00 PM on the days that take-home assignments are due. 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 participate actively in class discussions and exercises each week. Lectures are intended to complement, not duplicate, the required readings. Regular attendance and active participation are essential and a graded component of the course. Your active participation in class sessions will count for 20% of your overall grade in the course. I-Clicker technology (described below) will be used to facilitate in-class participation and to confirm your attendance of class sessions. You will receive participation credit for each class session you attend during the quarter. Because your cumulative class participation score constitutes 20% of your course grade, it is important to attend class regularly and participate actively in each session.

Use of iClickers During Each Class Session

Students are also required to bring an iClicker for all class sessions after the first meeting. The iClicker is an in-class response transmitter which you will use to answer questions the instructor displays on class projection screen. You can buy an iClicker at the UCI bookstore, you can use one you previously purchased, or you can borrow one from a friend for the quarter. You must use the iClicker brand sold at the Bookstore shown on the UCI Classroom Technology webpage (http://www.classrooms.uci.edu/ars). No other clicker will work. Before coming to class you must register your clicker’s serial number at the iClicker website (http://www.classrooms.uci.edu/ars/student.html). You will also need to provide your UCI student ID number. The instructor and TAs will be able to associate your answers to displayed questions with your UCID number after the completion of class sessions. Only aggregate survey or quiz results will be displayed in class for discussion. Responses of particular individuals will not be identified in class. We will use the iClicker to survey students about course topics on an un-graded basis to gather opinions and feedback on readings and presentations.

Grading

Your scores on the two exams, take home assignments, and course participation will be combined to determine your total score for the quarter. Your final grade in the course will be calibrated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Schedule of Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

Link to Course Readings via UCI Webfiles:
https://webfiles.uci.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-8151955_1-s_ffKrKCBO

Section I. Introduction and Overview

Tuesday
Jan 5

Overview of the Course

Assignment:
UCSD Obesity Networks Study:
http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/soc/07-07ObesityIK-.asp


Optional:
Centers for Disease Control Obesity Information Page
http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html


Thursday
Jan 7

Origins, Orientation, and Scope of Environmental Psychology

Assignment:
Anthropocene: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropocene
(accessed December 2015)


Optional:

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
Section II. Organizing Principles

Tuesday
Jan 12

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

**Assignment:**


**Optional:**

Thursday
Jan 14

**Systems Theory (cont.)**

**Assignment:**


**Optional:**

Section III. Processes of Person-Environment Transaction

Tuesday
Jan 19

**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 Jan 21
### Jan 21

**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/SSS=Form_V_%26_Key.pdf](https://eee.uci.edu/10w/54200/SSS=Form_V_%26_Key.pdf)

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### Tuesday

**Jan 26**

**Evaluating the Environment: Environmental Attitudes and Assessment**

**Assignment:**


**Second Take-Home Assignment on Physical Traces; Due Thursday Jan 28***

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### Thursday

**Jan 28**

**Taking Action in the Environment: Territoriality and Personal Space**

**Assignment:**


Hall, HD, Chapters 1-2, 8-10 (pp. 1-22, 99-129).


***Take-Home Assignment 2 Due***

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### Tuesday

**Feb 2**

**Taking Action in the Environment: Determinants of Pro-Environmental Behavior**

**Assignment:**


**Third Take-Home Assignment** on Density and Crowding; due Feb 4

Thursday

Feb 4

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

**Assignment:**


Optional:


***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**

Feb 9

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

**Assignment:**


Optional:


**Film:**

"Livable Streets" by Donald Appleyard
Thursday
Feb 11

*** Midterm Exam (5:00PM-6:20 PM) ***
(covering material discussed through February 9)

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Section IV. Applications of Behavioral Research to Community Planning and Environmental Design

Tuesday
Feb 16

Creating Livable Cities

Assignment:
Hall, HD. 174-180.


Optional:
Howard, E. Garden cities of tomorrow. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ, 1902. [link to book]

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

http://www.cnu.org/

http://www.smartgrowth.org/

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Thursday
Feb 18

Designing Effective Public Spaces

Assignment:


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

Optional:
Hawthorne, C. (2014). Latino Urbanism. [link to article]

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

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Tuesday
**Feb 23**

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

**Assignment:**


**Thursday**

**Feb 25**

**Environmental Psychology and Neighborhood Design**

**Assignment:**


**Optional:**

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**Tuesday**

**Mar 1**

**Natural Environments and Restorative Settings**

**Assignment:**


**Optional:**


**Fourth Take-Home Assignment** on Favorite Places; Due on Thursday Mar 3
Virtual Environments: Environmental Psychology of the Internet


***Take-Home Assignment 4 Due

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

Digital Divide resource list
http://www.ipl.org/div/digitaldivide/

Americans in the Information Age: Falling Through the Net

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

Social-Structural Approaches to Environmental Change


Evaluating Environmental Interventions


Thursday
Mar 17

*** Final Exam [4:00-6:00 PM] ***
(covering material discussed between February 16 – March 10)