



Department of Psychology
Psychology 427 - ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Caird
Office: 222 Administration **Hours:** T, Th 12:00 to 12:25,
by appointment
Telephone: 403-220-5571 **E-mail:** jkcaird@ucalgary.ca
Lec 01 T,Th 12:30 to 1:45, A 253

Lab Instructor: Nicole Percival
Office: 67 Administration **Hours:** TBA
Telephone: 403-220-5910 **E-mail:** nicole.percival@ucalgary.ca
Lab B01 M. 3:00 to 4:50 p.m., A 248
Lab B02 F. 9:00 to 10:50 p.m., A 248

Course Description

This course surveys the theory and data pertaining to the relationship between human behavior and the physical environment, both natural and built. Particular emphasis is placed on the implications of current knowledge for the management of the human-environment interface. A written review paper is a course requirement. Psychology 312 is a prerequisite.

Topics to be covered

1. Introduction
2. Spatial Cognition and Perception
3. Environmental Attitudes, Appraisals and Assessments
4. Personality, Personal Space and Territoriality
5. Crowding and Privacy
6. Noise, Pollution and Environmental Hazards
7. Residential and Urban Environments
8. Educational, Workplace and Natural Environments
9. Sustainability and Environmental Change
10. Designing Environments

Required Text (Available at the Bookstore and online.)

Gifford, R. (2007). *Environmental psychology* (4th Ed.). Optimal Books.

Evaluation

Laboratory Assignments	25 %
Mid-term Exam 1	20 %
Review Paper	25 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

Exams: The **mid-term exam** on **October 28th** (Th.) will cover all lectures and readings through October 26th. The **final exam** will stress the final half of the course readings and lectures, however, a portion of it will be cumulative (e.g., theory). The date of the final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. The format of exams is approximately 75% multiple choice and 25% essay.

Written Review Papers: A written review paper is part of the course requirements. A paper proposal is due during lab on November 1st or 5th. The paper proposal should be structured into a one-page outline of the topics that are to be addressed in the review. The T.A. and instructor will provide guidance in the selection of appropriate topics. Students are expected to select a topic, research it in depth, write a review outside of class, and edit it extensively. APA (5.0 or 6.0) formatted papers shall not exceed 15 pages inclusive of references and cover page. Papers are due **December 2nd (Th) at 4:00 p.m. No exceptions.** I will not accept emailed papers.

Laboratory Assignments: Eight assignments comprise the mark for the laboratory. The exact percent for each assignment varies from 3% to 5% depending on the scope the enquiry. The TA will provide students a written document when the laboratory first meets (i.e., the 2nd week of classes) that explains each laboratory, due dates, student expectations and marks associated with each assignment. Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

Grading Scale

Numerical scores for each component will be totaled to calculate the final grade. Final course grades will be assigned according to the scale below. "Curving-down" will not be performed on the distribution of grades.

A+	96-100	B+	80-84 %	C+	67-71 %	D+	54-58 %
A	90-95 %	B	76-79 %	C	63-66 %	D	50-53 %
A-	85-89 %	B-	72-75 %	C-	59-62 %	F	0-49 %

Feedback will be liberally provided so that you will know how you are performing in the class. For example, each component will be assigned a numerical score and a letter grade (e.g., 171 out of 200 points for a B on the mid-term). In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Class Policies

- 1) Your laboratory reports and research papers are due on the days listed. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exam make-ups and late assignments will be considered for "university valid" excuses and only with sufficient documentation. Make-up exams will be essay only and more difficult than the exam given to the whole class.
- 2) When questions arise about a particular laboratory, paper, or exam score, a student must discuss their work with the instructor or T.A. within two weeks after it has been returned.

Failure to pick-up assignments when they are returned is not a valid excuse. After two weeks re-evaluation will not be considered.

- 3) Any tape recordings of lectures must be approved by the lecturer and students in this course may be asked to participate in departmentally approved studies.
- 4) Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar, which present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/and Other Academic Misconduct.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
History/Intro./Research Methods	Chapter 1
Environmental Perception & Cognition	Chapter 2
Environmental Attitudes and Perceptions	Chapter 3
Personality and the Environment	Chapter 4
Personal Space	Chapter 5
Territoriality	Chapter 6
Crowding	Chapter 7
Midterm 1	
Privacy	Chapter 8
Residential Environmental Psychology	Chapter 9
Urban EP	Chapter 10
Educational EP	Chapter 11
Workplace EP	Chapter 12
Natural EP	Chapter 13
Sustainability	Chapter 14
Designing Environments	Chapter 15

Final Examination: **TBA**

Important Dates

No Labs	September 13th and 17th (M, F)
Last day to get a refund	Friday, September 24th, 2010
Last day to change registration	Monday, September 27th, 2010
Midterm Exam	Thursday, October 28 th , 2010
Review Paper Due	Thursday, December 2 nd , 2010
Remembrance Day. No lecture.	Thursday, November 11 th , 2010
Last day to allocate research credits	Wed., December 8 th , 2010
Last Day of Lectures	Friday, December 10 th , 2010
Last Day to Withdraw	Friday, December 10 th , 2010
Final Exam	To be scheduled by Registrar's Office

Written Assignments

Laboratories are to be handed to the instructor or placed in the green box outside 275 prior to the due date and time. The written review paper must be submitted as hardcopy. No late assignments will be accepted (i.e., a 0 will be assigned).

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8th, 2010.**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010.** Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27th, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10th, 2010.**