

## Psych 372 Winter, 2014

Monday and Wednesday, 230-350 PM AL124

### Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Colin Ellard

Office: PAS 4034

Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext 36852

Office Hours: Fridays 1230-2 pm or by arrangement

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca

The best way to reach me is by email. You can normally expect a response from me within 24 hours. I will hold regular office hours on Mondays but you can reach me at other times and I will do my best to set an appointment for either a face to face meeting or a phone call with you at a time that works for both of us.

T.A.	Vedran Dzebic	Kaylena Ehgoetz-Martens
Email	vdzebic@uwaterloo.ca	kaehgoet@uwaterloo.ca
Office	PAS 2254	PAS 2254
Office Hours	TBA	TBA

### Course Description

The main objective of the course is to provide an introduction to the field of environmental psychology. Environmental psychologists explore the relationship between place and feelings, cognition and behaviour. Their interests extend from theoretical consideration of the broader implications of place to applied issues related to building psychologically sustainable buildings, cities, and natural spaces. In this course we will examine both the theoretical and applied issues.

### Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

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

- A. Describe the main theories of environmental psychology
- B. Describe some of the applications of issues in environmental psychology to everyday places
- C. Conduct a simple observational study of behaviour as it relates to place

### Required Texts

- -Robert Gifford, Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice

### Readings Available on LEARN

- Course notes associated with each module
- Occasional enrichment articles (not required reading)

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Midterm exam	February 26	25
Hands-on assignment #1	February 15	10

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Hands-on assignment #2	March 15	15
Weekly check-ins on LEARN	various	10
Final examination	Exam period	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

## Notes on Assessments

**Midterm test** The midterm exam will take place on February 26 and it will be worth 25% of your final grade. The exam will include both objective (multiple choice) and written answer questions and will cover both lectures and readings

**Written assignments.** The two hands-on assignments will be based on data that you will collect on your own time. The data will consist of discrete observations of behaviour in built settings. The write-ups will be based on a series of questions that you will be given on LEARN. Some additional reading beyond the textbook may be required to obtain an excellent grade on these assignments.

**Weekly check-ins:** Each week I will provide you with a question on LEARN that you must answer to obtain a point. In total there will be 11 such check-in questions, and you can earn up to a maximum of 10 points for your answers to the questions.

**Final examination** The final exam will be held during the exam period in April. It will cover content from the entire course. Format will be partly objective (multiple choice) and partly written answers.

## Course Outline

I'll begin with a confession. This is my first offering of this course. I will do my best to stick to the syllabus below, but I will retain the right to either take somewhat longer or shorter times with each module of the course depending on my perception of class interest, difficulty of the content, and so on.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	January 6	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	January 13	Environmental Perception	Chapter 2
3	January 20	Environmental attitudes, appraisals and assessments	Chapter 3
4	January 27	Personality and environment	Chapter 4
5	February 3	Personal space and territoriality	Chapters 5 and 6
6	February 10	Crowding and Privacy	Chapters 7 and 8
7	February 24	Urban environmental psychology	Chapter 9
8	March 3	Workplace environmental psychology	Chapter 12
9	March 10	Natural environmental psychology	Chapter 13
10	March 17	Architecture, design, and neuroscience	Chapter 14
11	March 24	By popular demand	TBA

## Late Work

All written work is to be completed by 11:55 pm on the deadline days stated above, and submitted to a dropbox on LEARN. Students submitting late work will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day or partial day (including weekends) up to a maximum of 35% (7 days). Following this, written work will no longer be accepted for grade.

### **Students Seeking Accommodation Due to Illness or Bereavement**

Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:

1. seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form:

[http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html)

and submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.

2. (preferably) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.

In the case of a missed assignment deadline or midterm test, the instructor will either: waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or provide an extension.

In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

### **Experiential Learning with SONA**

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a "bonus" grade of up to 4% in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%.

The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades.

### **Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research, Research Experiences Group (REG)**

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

#### **Educational focus of participation in research**

To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements:

Purpose or objectives of the study

Dependent and independent variables

Expected results

References for at least two related research articles

Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data

Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study

Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student want to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which s/he participated.

Participation in LAB studies is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies is worth .25 credits for each 15-minutes of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

#### **How to participate?**

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the SONA online system. All students enrolled in this course have been set up with a SONA account. You must get started early in the term.

For instructions on how to log in to your SONA account and for a list of important dates and deadlines please, as soon as possible go to:

\*\*\* Please do not ask the Course Instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website.\*\*\*

More information about the REG program is available at:

REG Participants' Homepage

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students want to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course.

You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review. Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

Be submitted before the last day of lectures. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

I have chosen not to use plagiarism detection software in this course. You should know, however, that both the teaching assistants and I have an expert eye for cheating developed over many years of experience. Any suspected violations of the University's integrity policy will be treated seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities. As per the note on integrity below, it is the student's responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and to avoid committing it.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

You are welcome to use notebook computers or smartphones in my classroom for note-taking, and even the occasional Google search of something related to discussion would not be inappropriate. I would appreciate it if all chimes, beeps, tweets and ringtones (especially those which sample music I don't like) be muted during class.

### **Attendance Policy**

There is ample evidence that students who attend class regularly do better than those who don't. This, and the fact that you're investing a large amount of money to obtain a good education, should make questions about class attendance a no-brainer. You should come to class as often as you can. If you do miss a class, you will need to find a classmate to share notes with you. As much as I like talking about perception, I simply don't have the time to repeat classes for you during office hours or over email.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** Access-Ability Services, located in Needles Hall Room

1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with Access-Ability Services at the beginning of each academic term.

**Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)** We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies (*Myra Fernandes from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014*) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Contact information is as follows:

Myra Fernandes Email: [mafernan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mafernan@uwaterloo.ca) Ph 519-888-4567 ext 32142

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

### **Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals**

To protect course integrity, as well as to provide appropriate guidance to students, course outlines in the Faculty of Arts must include the following note on avoidance of academic offenses:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

[Further details: <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>], to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline [<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>].

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 [<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>].

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals

[<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>]. (Include also the following paragraph if you will be using Turnitin\*): Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>.

### **Note for Students with Disabilities**

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.