

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**PSYCHOLOGY 321 - 921
Environmental Psychology**

Summer Term 1, 2015 (May 9-June 24)

Course Website:

<http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>

Important Semester Dates:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/academicyear.cfm>

3-Credits

COURSE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Kevin Hamilton

Office: Room 4037 Ponderosa Bldg..

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesday 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment

Mail Box: Kenny Room 2508

Phone: 604-599-2606 (KPU)

Main Psychology Office UBC: 604-822-2755

Email: kevin.hamilton@psych.ubc.ca

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Name: Lisa Zhang

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Email: lisazhang@psych.ubc.ca

Where possible, most problems and issues should be directed initially to your Teaching Assistant

LECTURES:

Monday and Wednesdays: 18:00-21:00
Buchanan A 104

READING LIST:

Required readings will be posted to the course website, hosted on UBC Connect. In addition, the following two books have been selected for this course:

Required Reading:

Quinn, D. (1992). *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. New York: Bantam / Turner

Recommended Reading:

Lovelock, J. (2009). *The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning*. London: Allen Lane

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course critically examines the field of environmental psychology. You will learn about the interrelationships between ourselves and the environmental systems in which we live and work. The focus is on both theory and application. Specific topics addressed include: the history and scope of environmental psychology; theories of environment and behaviour; environmental stress; natural environments; built environments; designing for humans; specialized living and working environments and behavioural change in relation to contemporary global environmental issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS:

Student Responsibilities:

You are responsible for all course readings listed under 'Topics and Required Readings'. In addition, you are responsible for all material presented in lectures that may not be covered in the readings. This includes discussion points and supplemental topics as well as issues presented in films shown regularly throughout the course.

Before coming to each class, it is important that you have read the material to be discussed that day. This will greatly facilitate your understanding of what's covered during class. Participation in class discussion is encouraged and **regular attendance is extremely important and expected.** Students unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should inform the instructor or TA and report to the instructor on returning to class.

EVALUATION:

- 2 Tests: 35% and 20%
- Building Audit Assignment 30%
- Book Report 15%

Dates for the midterm, Building Audit Assignment and Book Report are indicated under '*Topics and Required Readings*'

Note: Grades for the midterm and assignments will be posted randomly by student number on the course website, **unless you specifically ask not to have your grades posted in this manner.**

Normalization of Grades:

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13.

Scaling or grade normalization is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

Writing Tests:

When writing tests, you will need picture ID and your student number (found on your library card).

If you are interested in viewing your completed tests, project or essay, please make arrangements directly with your Teaching Assistant.

Missed Midterm or Assignment Dates:

There are no make-up tests or assignments in this course to improve grades. However, **if test or assignment dates are missed for legitimate reasons**, an equivalent form of the test can be written with the Teaching Assistant and missed assignments submitted, when you return to the University. Late assignments will have grades deducted accordingly. **Note, if you are going to miss any tests or assignment dates, you must notify the Teaching Assistant or Course Director within 48 hours of the scheduled exam times.** Please make arrangements to write missed exams or to submit late assignments directly with your Teaching Assistant. Legitimate reasons for not writing the midterm at the scheduled time or for not submitting an assignment on time must include a Dr.'s note or related documentation that can be verified.

Research Experience Component (REC):

As part of this course you can complete a research experience component (REC) as a way of being exposed to current ongoing research in psychology taking place at UBC. This REC can be used to acquire up to 2% that will be added to your overall grade at the end of the semester. You are free to choose one of two options for obtaining this bonus:

Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool:

Most students will choose to earn their research experience component by spending up to **two hours participating in psychology studies (worth 1% point for each hour)** through the Department of Psychology's Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. You can locate, create an account, and sign up for studies by going to <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. **Please register in the system by the end of the first week of classes to have the opportunity to earn your first ½ hour credit with a brief online survey that will increase your eligibility for more studies.**

Once registered in the system, you will be able to browse through and select which studies you wish to participate in, sign up for an available timeslot, and confirm your accumulated credits afterward. At the end of the last day of class for the term, the subject pool is closed. At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. I strongly urge you to participate in and confirm your credits long *before* the last week of class. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> in the document entitled “Subject Pool Information for Participants.”

Alternative assignment: Library Writing Projects:

As an alternative to participating in the Subject Pool, you can instead choose to complete up to two library writing projects (worth 1% point each). For this assignment, you will read and summarize two research articles. You must select a research article (not a letter to the editor, commentary, or review paper) published between 2000-present in the journal *Psychological Science* – one of the disciplines’ leading journals. Each summary should be about 500 words and should describe the purpose, method and results of the study *in your own words*. "You are to submit your article and your summary to turnitin.com.

If you don’t have a turnitin account already (from a previous course), you will need to create a user account in Turnitin. For the library assignment the class ID is 6880064, class name is Library Option for HSP, and password is research. See www.turnitin.com, and click on the “Training” link at the top of the page for detailed instructions on how to submit papers to Turnitin."

If you choose the library option, you must submit your summary and article information no later than 10 days before the end of classes,

For further information and instructions, please see the “Subject Pool Information for Participants” document found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy>

Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will, at a minimum, not be granted credit, and their course instructor will be notified. Further action may be taken at a departmental or university level.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please note that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at UBC. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. The Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students’ responses.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating, plagiarism or inappropriate use of electronic devices may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student’s transcript

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).

Special Needs:

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with Access and Diversity. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.

CLASS DATES, TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

May 11	(1)	Introduction to Environmental Psychology
May 13	(2)	Theories of Environment and Behaviour
May 18		Victoria Day – University is Closed
May 20	(3)	From Tribes to Towns to Cities Book Report Assignment
May 25	(4)	The Nature of Western Thought
May 27	(5)	The Built Environment – Cities
June 1	(6)	The Built Environment – Buildings Building Audit Assignment
June 3	(7)	Test 1 (35%)
June 8	(8)	Field trip – Building Audit
June 10		Field Trip – Building Audit
June 15	(9)	Specialized Environments Building Audit Assignment Due (30%)
June 17	(10)	Sustainability - Effects of Human Behaviour on the Environment Book Report due (15%)

The final exam for this course (**20%**) will be held during the university examination period from June 20 to 24. Once the university determines the exact date and location of the final, this information will be announced in class. Please be sure that you are available for all classes, exams and assignments on the dates indicated.