

PSYCHOLOGY 340 – ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2009, Course reference number: 43649
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 – 2:20
Location: CF 227

Instructor: Dr. David Sattler
Office: Academic Instruction Center 578
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:30 – 12:30
and by appointment
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Course Materials

1. Gardner, G., & Stern, P. (2002). *Environmental Problems and Human Behavior*, 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing.
2. Assigned Readings (see reading list)

Course Goals and Objectives

This course is a survey of environmental psychology. Environmental psychology is the scientific study of the relationship between people and the environment. During the course, we will consider important questions and issues concerning the relationships among the environment and human behavior. We will examine the challenges to studying environmental problems and human behavior, and discuss strategies psychologists studying these issues use. Throughout the course, we will explore how psychological theory and research can be applied to understand and address environmental problems and issues. After completing the course, you will be able to (a) identify and evaluate classic and contemporary environmental psychological theory and research, (b) apply psychological theory and research to understand and address environmental issues, (c) understand basic correlational and experimental research designs that environmental psychologists use, and (d) identify and evaluate ethical issues in environmental psychological research.

Western Washington University is committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in all programs and activities. For accommodation or assistance requests, please contact the Office of Student Life at 650-3844.

Prerequisite

The course prerequisites are Psychology 240 and Psychology 301.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all class meetings.

Examinations

There will be three in-class exams. The first exam will be on Friday, October 16, at 1:00 p.m., the second exam will be on Friday, November 6, at 1:00 p.m., and the third exam will be on Monday, November 23, at 1:00 p.m. The multiple-choice and short-essay questions are based on material presented in the readings and during lecture.

Research Project

The class will design and conduct a research project. A report of the study, in APA format, is due in class on Wednesday, December 2. For this paper, you will submit the title page, abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion, and reference sections of the paper. A typical report length is 10 pages. Late papers cannot be accepted.

Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure

Please read the Western Washington University Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure, as listed in the 2009-2010 Western Washington University Catalog. This policy states, in part: “Western Washington University students have an obligation to fulfill the responsibilities of their particular roles as members of an academic community. Honesty is essential to learning. Without it, fair evaluation for all is impossible. Academic integrity is demanded, and academic dishonesty at Western Washington University is a serious infraction dealt with severely. Students shall not claim as their own the achievements, work or arguments of others, nor shall they be a party to such claims.” For complete information and a list of examples illustrating academic dishonesty and plagiarism and procedures for academic dishonesty cases, please see the 2009-2010 Catalog.

Grading

Students may earn up to 225 points.

Exam I	–	50 points
Exam II	–	50 points
Exam III	–	50 points
Paper	–	75 points
Total	–	225 points

For each exam, grades will be assigned as follows:

A	=	92 – 100%
A-	=	90 – 91%
B+	=	88 – 89%
B	=	82 – 87%
B-	=	80 – 81%
C+	=	78 – 79%
C	=	72 – 77%
C-	=	70 – 71%
D+	=	68 – 69%
D	=	62 – 67%
D-	=	60 – 61%
F	=	59% and less

Making-up an Examination

If you know that you are going to miss the exam, please contact me to make arrangements to take the exam *before* the scheduled time of the exam. If you miss an exam due to other reasons such as illness, please immediately send me an e-mail with an explanation about the absence. Only those people who miss an exam and have excusable reasons will be allowed to take the alternative version of the exam (of equal length and difficulty to the exam given to the class).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment
9/23	Introduction / Environmental Problems <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 1 2. Oskamp, “Psychological Contributions”
9/28	Environmental Problems and Human Behavior <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 2 2. Oskamp & Schultz, “Using Psychological Science”
10/5	Tragedy of the Commons / Social Dilemmas <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Hardin, “Tragedy” 2. Parks, “Social Dilemmas” 3. Van Lange, “Social Dilemma” Values, Beliefs, Worldviews <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 3 2. Kramer, “Social Values” 3. Schultz, “Empathizing” 4. Arnold, “Leaders”
10/12	Influence and Norms <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Schultz, “Social Norms” 2. Cialdini, “Normative Messages” 3. Schultz, “Hotel Guests” 4. Ernst, “K-12 Teachers”
	Fri, 10/16, EXAM 1 – <u>Covering</u>: All readings and lectures from 9/23 to 10/14
10/19	New Environmental Paradigm <i>Reading Assignment:</i> 1. Dunlap, “New Environmental Paradigm” 2. Dunlap, “New Environmental Paradigm Scale” 3. Dunlap, “New Environmental Paradigm Revised Scale”

10/26 Educational Interventions: Attitudes and Information

Reading Assignment:

1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 4
2. Bradfield, "Sustainability Education"
3. Wright, "Environmental Literacy"
4. Mastrilli, "Elementary Teacher Education"
5. McMillan, "Environmental Studies"
6. Stern, Environmental Education Program"
7. Moody, "Environmental Literacy Requirements"

11/2 Changing the Incentives / Community Management

Reading Assignment:

1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 5
2. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 6

Fri, 11/6, EXAM II – Covering: All readings and lectures from 10/19 to 11/4

11/9 Environmental Hazards

Reading Assignment:

1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 9
2. Sattler, "Disaster Preparedness"
3. Joireman, "Repeated Warnings"

Wed, 11/11 – Veteran’s Day – No Class

11/16 Combining the Solution Strategies/Human Interaction with Complex Systems

Reading Assignment:

1. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 7
2. Gardner & Stern, Ch. 12
3. Bator & Cialdini, "Public Service Announcements"
4. Rands, "Management Education"
5. Patrick, "Zoo Mission Statements"

11/23 **Mon, 11/23, EXAM III – Covering: All readings and lectures from 11/9 to 11/20**

Wed and Fri, 11/25 and 11/27 – Turkey Day! Gobble Gobble! No Class

11/30 Future Directions

Reading Assignment:

1. Oskamp, "Career Reflections"

Wed, 12/2 – Report Due in Class