Environmental Psychology  
(PSY. 362)  
121 LHH  
T/TH 2:30-3:45

**Instructor:** Prof. Eaaron Henderson-King  
Office: 2206 ASH, phone: 331-2938  
e-mail:henderse@gvsu.edu  
Office hours: T 9-10am and Th 9-10am or by appt.

**Readings:**


All other readings will be available on Blackboard under “Course Documents”.

**Overview:** Environmental psychology is the study of how humans effect, and are affected by, the environment they inhabit. It examines human behavior, well-being, perceptions and attitudes and how each of these is influenced by the socio-physical environment. Environmental psychologists look at how the natural environment, homes, offices, educational settings, neighborhoods and communities, and technology shape, and are shaped by, those in the environment.

Thus, in this course we will ask, and address, questions such as: How do we find our way around the environments in which we live and work? What factors lead us to like, or dislike, the places in which we live? What are the effects of overcrowding, pollution, and noise on our psychological well-being?

**Exams:** There will be three exams in the course. The first will be based on the lecture and reading material that will be presented in the first 3 weeks of the semester, and the second will cover weeks 4 through 8. The Final Exam will be cumulative and will cover the readings assigned in the later half of the semester as well as the material covered in the first eight weeks of the semester.

**Exam 1 – 50 points**  
**Exam 2 – 50 points**  
**Final Exam – 70 points**
The exams will be a mix of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The questions will be taken from BOTH the lecture material and the course readings.

**Action Project:** One of the primary foci of those who are interested in environmental psychology and those who conduct research in the field is change. How can we change people’s behavior or the environment in which they live for the better? Thus, the action project will provide you with an opportunity to attempt to make a positive change on some level (people’s behavior or perceptions, or the environment in which people live and work). The action project can be relatively small or large, and, depending on the scope of the project, only a portion of it needs to actually be completed.

Your task is to develop an intervention that is designed to influence the person-environment relationship. The project can be something on the university level, in the local community, at the state level, or even on the national level. An example might be a campaign to get drivers to use the fast lane on highways only for passing, since traffic backups is a significant stressor in people’s lives. A second example might be an educational campaign addressing global warming, or littering on campus, or food waste at the individual or institutional level.

**The project should consist of the following components:**

1) a theoretical and empirical rationale for the project

2) conducting all, or a portion, of the project

3) an assessment component in which you propose how you would assess the project’s effectiveness

4) writing an 8-10 page paper that incorporates the theoretical and empirical components; a detailed discussion of the method you used to implement the project; and an assessment and critique of the project’s effectiveness (what happened in conducting the project, what were it’s effects, what did you learn, what would you do differently in the future and why, etc.).

Each group will be responsible for gathering readings (theoretical, empirical, and/or applied) that address the problem. They will then select **two readings** for the class to read. These readings must give the class a clear understanding of what the issue is AND the relevant empirical background that assisted the group to determine how they would approach addressing the issue. These readings will be used as the basis for the group leading a class presentation and discussion of their action project. Also note that the final exam will include questions based on these readings. The readings must be submitted to me in a PDF format by **February 25, 2016**. A set of discussion questions, which may be revised, should also be submitted.

In the second half of the semester, each group will be given an entire class period to lead a discussion on the readings, and both present and discuss their action project.
Each person will be responsible for one aspect of the project and will be graded individually on that portion the project as well as the entire group project.

**Paper – 50 points**

**Class presentation – 30 points**

**Individual portion of project – 30 points**

**Group evaluation of each individual member’s contribution and performance – 20 points**

**Submission of readings – 15 points**

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**Total points for the course -- 315 points**

Grade Distribution:

- **A -- 100-94%**
- **A- -- 93.9-90%**
- **B+ -- 89.9-87%**
- **B -- 86.9-83%**
- **B- -- 82.9-80%**
- **C+ -- 79.9-77%**
- **C -- 76.9-73%**
- **C- -- 72.9-70%**
- **D+ -- 69.9-67%**
- **D -- 66.9-63%**
- **D- -- 62.9-60%**
- **F -- 59.9%-->**

**Schedule of classes and readings**

**Jan. 12 and Jan. 14 (Week 1)**

Introduction: What is Environmental Psychology?

Readings:


**Jan. 19 and Jan. 21 (Week 2)**

Research Methods in Environmental Psychology

Assignment to groups and discussion of action project
Jan. 26 and Jan. 28 (Week 3)

Systems Theory, Ecology, and a Multi-Level Perspective

Readings:


Jan. 28 – Discussion of Projects

Feb. 2 and Feb. 4 (Week 4)

**Feb. 2 (Tues.) Exam 1 (Covering Weeks 1 through 3)**

Feb. 4 Perception, Cognition and the Environment

Readings:


Feb. 9 and Feb. 11 (Week 5)

Personality and Socio-cultural factors in Attitudes Toward the Environment

Readings:


Feb. 11 – Discussion of Projects

Feb. 16 and Feb. 18 (Week 6)
Determinants of Pro-Environmental Behaviors

Readings:


Feb. 18 – Discussion of Projects

Feb. 23 and Feb. 25 (Week 7)
Behavioral, Social and Health Effects of Environmental Stressors

Readings:


Feb. 25 – Discussion of Project

**Feb. 26 – Group readings submitted in PDF format by noon. **

Mar. 1 and Mar. 3 (Week 8)
Sustainability & Human behavior and environmental problems

Readings:


Mar. 6 and Mar. 13 (SPRING BREAK)

Mar. 15 and Mar. 17 (Week 9)

**Mar. 15 (Tues.) Exam 2 (covering Weeks 4 through 8)**

Mar. 22 and Mar. 24 (Week 10)

Mar. 15 – Group 1
Mar. 17 – Group 2

Mar. 29 and Mar. 31 (Week 11)

Mar. 22 – Group 3
Mar. 24 – Group 4

Apr. 5 and Apr. 7 (Week 12)

Mar. 29 – Group 5
Mar. 31 – Group 6

Apr. 12 and Apr. 14 (Week 13)

Apr. 5 – Group 7
Apr. 7 – Group 8

Apr. 19 and Apr. 21 (Week 14)

Summary of group projects

Apr. 26 Final exam (CUMULATIVE) 4-5:50pm