



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 427 – Environmental Psychology
Fall 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Jeff Caird	Office Hours:	M, W, F 12:00 to 1:00, by appointment
Telephone:	(403) 220-5571	Lecture Days/Times:	M, W, F 1:00 to 1:50 p.m.
E-mail:	jkcaird@ucalgary.ca	Lecture Location:	SH 284
Office:	Administration 222		
Lab Instructor:	Robert Crooks	Office Hours:	TBA
Telephone:	(403) 220-3769	Lab Days/Times:	Lab 01: Tuesday 11:00 - 12:50 p.m. Lab 02: Friday 9:00 - 10:50 a.m.
E-mail:	rjhcrooks@shaw.ca	Lab Location:	A248
Office:	A20		

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. Psychology 312 is a prerequisite.

Topics to be covered:

1. Introduction
2. Assessment
3. Theoretical basis
4. Weather
5. Noise and pollution
6. Personal space and territoriality
7. Personality influences
8. A survey of different environments:
 - a. natural, b. urban vs. non-urban, c. college environments,
d. housing, e. offices, f. institutions, g. leisure, h. digital
9. Design, aesthetics
10. Environmental change

Text: (Available at the Bookstore and online.)

Bell, P. A., Fisher, J. D., Baum, A., & Greene, T. C. (2001). *Environmental Psychology* (5th ed.). Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Evaluation

Examinations:

- 1) The first mid-term exam on **October 17th** (Friday) will cover all lectures and readings through October 15th (W). The second mid-term exam on **November 19th** (Wed.) will cover all lectures and readings through November 17th (M).
- 2) 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 will be scheduled by the Registrar.
- 3) The format of exams is approximately 80% multiple choice and 20% essay.

Laboratories:

Approximately six laboratory assignments are required and comprise 30% of the final grade. The TA will provide a detailed syllabus that outlines each of the laboratories and marking expectations. Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

Distribution of Grades:

Laboratory Assignments	30 %
Mid-term Exam 1	25 %
Mid-term Exam 2	25 %
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20 %</u>
Total	100 %

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).

Grading Scale:

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%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. 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 bonus credits.

IMPORTANT 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.) 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 paper must be submitted as hardcopy and by email forms. No late assignments will be accepted (i.e., a 0 will be assigned).
- 3.) 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.
- 4.) 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.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings:

Topic	Reading
History/Intro.	Chapter 1
Research Methods	Chapter 1
Nature & Human Nature	Chapter 2
Environmental Perception & Cognition	Chapter 3
Theories of Environment-Behaviour	Chapter 4
Noise	Chapter 5
Weather, Climate, Behaviour	Chapter 6
Disasters, Toxic Hazards, Pollution	Chapter 7
Midterm 1	October 17th
Proxemics	Chapter 8
High Density & Crowding	Chapter 9
The City	Chapter 10
Planning and Design	Chapter 11
Midterm 2	November 19th
Residential and Institutional Environments	Chapter 12
Work, Learning, Leisure Environments	Chapter 13
Changing Behaviour	Chapter 14

Final Examination: **TBA**

Important Dates:

No Labs	September 9 th and 12 th (T, F)
Last day to get a refund	September 19 th (F)
Thanksgiving	October 13 th , No lectures
Midterm 1	October 17 th (F)
Midterm 2	November 19 th (W)
Reading Days (No lecture)	November 8 th to 11 th (No Lectures)
Remembrance Day (No lecture)	Nov. 10 th (M)
Last Day of Lectures	Dec. 5 th (F)
Last Day to Withdraw	December 5 th (F)
Final Exam	To be scheduled by Registrar's office

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 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.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Course Credits for Research Participation

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 an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in research is December 4, 2008.

Student Organizations

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

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 19, 2008. The last day to **withdraw** from this course is December 5, 2008.