

# Psy 315 Environmental Psychology

**Professor Antonio Bova**

**Summer 2019**

## **I. COURSE INFORMATION**

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Instructor:	Antonio Bova, Ph.D.
Instructor's Email	abova@fus.edu
Office location:	Main Villa, Office 8
Office Hours:	M 11:15-12:15 and by appointment
Class location	Main Villa, Classroom 4
Class meeting times	M/Th 8:30-11:15

Please contact me for any course related matters. I am open to receiving e-mails from students but I get on average 30 emails per day and therefore I ask that you put ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY as the subject in your email. These e-mails will be answered usually within 48 hours but not later than one week. Please use your student e-mail account when sending me a message. I have a spam filter and often non-university email (such as those generated from hotmail accounts) gets sent to my junk folder which I do not read. I encourage students to speak with me directly after a lecture to set up an appointment.

## **II. GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course introduces a relatively new field of study in psychology that focuses on the interaction between the environment and human beings, examining how the physical features of the environment impact our cognition, behavior, and well-being, and how our actions in turn produce immediate and long-term consequences on the environment. In this course, the environment is broadly defined to include not only our physical surroundings (both natural and built) but also the larger, socio-cultural and political milieu in which we live. We will borrow ideas and information from a variety of other areas and disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, biology, geography, urban planning, public policy, and other areas. Topics to be covered include: dysfunctional and restorative environments, the effects of environmental stressors, the nature and use of personal space, environmental risk perception, psychological impact of ecological crises, values and attitudes towards nature, and conservation psychology.

### **III. RATIONALE**

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This is an elective course that counts towards the requirements in the psychology minor, major and combined major.

### **IV. COURSE GOALS**

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The goals of this course are as follows:

1. To develop a sensitivity and understanding of environmental issues and problems as they relate to human behavior in a variety of settings and from a variety of related disciplines,
2. To make students aware of the major topics in environmental psychology and related fields,
3. To develop a personal understanding of how the environment has affected and continues to affect them as individuals,
4. To develop an understanding of how they personally impact the environment and possible ways to make their environment more sustainable and habitable,
5. Help students understand how the knowledge gained from this course can be used in improving their current and future environments.

### **V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Explain psychological mechanisms underlying the environmental impact on human behavior
2. Consider the many ways in which the environment might induce maladaptive or abnormal behavior
3. Identify psychological barriers to pro-environmental actions;
4. Explore individual differences with regard to responses to the environment
5. Critically evaluate current research on environmental psychology.

### **VI. LECTURES**

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Students are expected to attend the lectures and to have read the assigned readings beforehand. This means that it is understood that students be present and actively engaged during lectures, that all information and material presented or discussed during lecture is potential material for exams, and that important announcements may be made during the lecture. Thus, any student who does not attend lecture is responsible finding out what occurred there.

Please be so kind to turn off all mobile phones and other electronic devices when in the lecture and to have them stored away, out of sight. It is a distraction for the lecturer (as well as just plain bad manners) if students are texting, taking photos, checking e-mails or in other ways using electronic devices. I will ask you to leave the lecture should your behavior be disturbing to me or your fellow students. I would prefer that you not use a laptop/notebook during the lectures as other students get distracted by your screen. I am willing to discuss and reconsider this issue if for some reason you really need your computer, but you will have to discuss this with me in person first (no emails on this topic please).

## **VII. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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- Specifics literature about different topics will be given in class
- Power Point Presentations

## **VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you obtain with respect to a total of 200 points.

Regular reading and review of information provided is essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 90 points.

Finally, attendance and class participation will be noted. In this way, your final evaluation will be determined by several different means, providing a well-balanced reflection of your effort and ability to integrate the material throughout the course.

## **IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

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Final grades will be determined based on the following weighting:

Midterm Exam 45%

Final Exam 45%

Attendance and Class Participation 10%

Failure to complete an exam, the research paper or the student presentation will result in failing the course regardless of what your average is across the other exams, the research paper or the student presentation.

**An approximate guide for final grades is as follows:**

A: 191-200 total points; A-: 181-190 total points

B+: 174-180 total points; B: 167-173 total points; B-: 161-166 total points

C+: 154-160 total points; C: 147-153 total points; C-: 141-146 total points

D+: 134-140 total points; D: 127-133 total points; D-: 121-126 total points

F: 119 total points and below

**X. POLICY ON LATE WORK AND ABSENCES**

Make-up exams will not be offered, except in the case of documented personal/family emergencies. In these exceptional cases, appropriate documentation (for example, a note from a doctor or counselor) is required for a student to make-up a missed exam. All other work is expected to be turned in on time, so please plan accordingly.

**XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- As logistically as possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.

- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.
- A student found cheating on an exam will be given an "F" for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student may be given an "F" for the course.
- A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

## **XII. COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>MAIN THEMES</b>
3 June	<b>Introduction: What is Environmental Psychology?</b>
4 June	<b>The Nature and Scope of Environmental Psychology</b>
5 June	<b>Urban environments</b>
6 June	<b>Psychological benefits of nature</b>
10 June	<b>Environmental attitudes, beliefs, values, and dispositions</b>
12 June	<b>Environment and risk perception</b>
13 June	<b>Environment and violence</b>
17 June	<b>Environment and values</b>
18 June	<b>Environment and social relationships</b>
19 June	<b>Environment and happiness</b>
20 June	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
24 June	<b>Work environments</b>
25 June	<b>Environmental cognition</b>
26 June	<b>Environment and physical health</b>
27 June	<b>Final Exam (Thursday)</b>