

**Course Title:** Environmental Psychology

**Course Code:** BEH332

**Recommended Study Year\*:** 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup> year

**No. of Credits/Term:** 3

**Mode of Tuition:** Lecture and tutorials

**Class Contact Hours:** 3 hours per week

**Lecturer:** Lis Ku (email: [lisku@ln.edu.hk](mailto:lisku@ln.edu.hk); office: SO312; phone: 2616-7183)

### **Brief Course Description**

Environmental Psychology can be best summarized as an interdisciplinary science that focuses on the interplay between the (natural and built) environment and the people who occupy the environment. This course examines a) how people perceive and represent the environment, b) how the environment influences people's behaviour and cognition, c) the impact of people's behavior on the environment, and d) how we can help change people's attitude and behavior towards the natural environment.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, you should have a better understanding of the complex relationships humans have with the environment. By integrating psychological theories with environmental policies, you should develop an understanding of how human cognition, values and attitudes, as well as resulting behaviour, can aid or hinder solutions to environmental pollution and natural resources shortage problems. You should develop an awareness of how your own thoughts and actions impact the environment, and may also acquire a greater concern for the environment.

### **Teaching Method**

There are one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week. You are required to attend all tutorial classes. Grades will be deducted if fail to do so.

### **Assessment**

1. Group presentation 15%
2. Discussion 15%
3. Empirical study and report 30%
4. Final Examination: 40%

### **Textbook**

Bell, P. A., Greene, T. C., Fisher, J. D., & Baum, A. (2001). *Environmental Psychology, 5th Ed.*, Wadsworth/Thompson.

## Lecture schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Essential readings
Week 2	September 11	Research method and theories	Chapter 4
Week 3	September 18	Cognition, perception, and the environment	Chapter 3
Week 4	September 25	Humans and the natural environment	Chapters 2 & 6
Week 5	October 2	Personal space and territorial behaviour	Chapter 8
Week 6	October 9	Space, attachment and identity	TBA
Week 7	October 16	High density and crowding	Chapter 9
Week 8	October 23	Effects of urban life on behaviour	Chapters 10
Week 9	October 30	Noise	Chapter 5
Week 10	November 6	Pollution	Chapter 7
Week 11	November 13	Residential environment	Chapter 12
Week 12	November 20	Work and other environments	Chapter 13
Week 13	November 27	Changing values, attitudes and (hopefully) behaviour	Chapter 14
Week 14	December 4	--	--

## Notes

### Group presentation (15%)

In a group of two to three people, give a 20-25 minute presentation on one of the topics listed in the lecture schedule below. You are encouraged to cover not only the essential readings, but also additional materials that are related to the topic of your presentation.

### Discussion (15%)

Participation in discussion is highly encouraged, but for each presentation two students are assigned as discussants, whose responsibility is to comment on issues raised in the presentation (10%). General participation in tutorials accounts for the remaining 5%.

### Empirical study and report (30%) **Due on December 4 (Thursday)**

Based on the topics covered in the course, you are to conduct an empirical study and report your findings along with a brief introduction and discussion. The study can take the form of experiment, questionnaire survey or field observation. You can collaborate with your fellow classmates in conducting the study, but you must hand in an **individual report** that is written in the format of a journal article.

Proposal of the study should be handed in on or before October 16.