

## PSYC 321: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall Semester 2021

### PROFESSOR

Name: Mark A. Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Email: [mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu](mailto:mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu)  
Office: SCI D331 (or via Zoom)  
Hours: MWF 8-900am or by  
appointment

### COURSE

Section/Credits: 1/3  
Meetings: MW 930-1045am  
Location: SCI D230  
Prerequisite: PSYC 110 or permission  
GEP: ER

### TEXTBOOKS AND WEBSITE

Clayton, S., & Myers, G. L. (2015). *Conservation psychology: Understanding and promoting human care for nature* (2nd ed.). Wiley.

Steg, L., & de Groot, J. I. M. (2019). *Environmental psychology: An introduction* (2nd ed.). Wiley.

The Canvas website will be used to share materials, collect assignments, and post grades. To access Canvas, you will need an internet browser (login site: <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx>) or the Canvas Student app for Google Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid&hl=en&gl=us>) or Apple iOS/iPadOS (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/canvas-student/id480883488>). All options require your UWSP login and password to access. If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features (such as discussions), please review the helpful resources on the Canvas website: [https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student/ct-p/canvas\\_student](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student/ct-p/canvas_student). If you need technical support, contact Canvas Support directly by clicking on the Help button in Canvas.

### DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

This course offers an overview of theory and research in environmental psychology—a subfield of psychology that examines the relationship between humans and the natural environment. The course begins with a brief introduction to the field. It then discusses three major areas of investigation in environmental psychology. The first area examines how the environment affects human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The second examines how human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors affect the environment. And the third examines strategies for improving human-environment relationships.

There are two emphases in this course—to understand the concepts and principles of environmental psychology, as well as to apply them to everyday human-environment relationships. By completing the course, you will be able to...

- Identify interactions between human society and the natural environment
- Analyze the individual, social, cultural, and ecological factors that influence environmental sustainability
- Evaluate competing claims that inform environmental debates

**CALENDAR**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>Overview and Nature's Effects on Humans</b>				
1: Introduction	W 9/8, M 9/13	Clayton 1, Steg 1	Discussion 1	M 9/13
2: Nature	W 9/15, M 9/20	Clayton 4, Steg 8	Discussion 2	M 9/20
3: Health	W 9/22, M 9/27	Steg, 4, 6, & 7	Discussion 3	M 9/27
***Exam 1: M 10/4, Modules 1-3***				
<b>Humans' Effects on Nature: Individual Influences</b>				
4: Values	W 9/29, W 10/6	Clayton 5, Steg 17 & 22	Discussion 4	W 10/6
5: Risk	M 10/11, W 10/13	Clayton 6, Steg 2 & 3	Discussion 5 Paper 1	W 10/13
6: Emotion	M 10/18, W 10/20	Clayton 12, Steg 19	Discussion 6	W 10/20
***Exam 2: M 10/25, Modules 4-6***				
<b>Humans' Effects on Nature: Collective Influences</b>				
7: Identities	W 10/27, M 11/1	Clayton 8, Steg 14 & 20	Discussion 7	M 11/1
8: Norms	W 11/3, M 11/8	Steg 15, 18, & 23	Discussion 8 Paper 2	M 11/8
9: Conflict	W 11/10, M 11/15	Clayton 7, Steg 21	Discussion 9	M 11/15
***Exam 3: M 11/22, Modules 7-9***				
<b>Interventions for Human-Nature Relationships</b>				
10: Sustainability	W 11/17, W 11/24	Clayton 9, Steg 16 & 32	Discussion 10	W 11/24
11: Information	M 11/29, W 12/1	Clayton 11, Steg 26	Discussion 11 Paper 3	W 12/1
12: Policy	M 12/6, W 12/8	Clayton 10, Steg 27	Discussion 12	W 12/8
***Exam 4: T 12/14 (245-445pm), Modules 10-12***				

*This calendar is subject to revision. Any changes will be announced in class, via email, or on Canvas.*

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams.** There will be four in-person exams in this course. Each exam will cover three modules of material (about 100 pages of reading) and will consist of 45 multiple choice questions. You will choose the 40 questions that you would like to answer. See the calendar for dates and material covered. The exams will be worth 400 points (roughly 67% of your final grade).

**Papers.** There will be three papers in this course. Each paper will require you to think and analyze environmental issues using relevant materials. They will be limited to two typed, double-spaced pages (12 point font and one-inch margins). Paper topics will be posted on Canvas and must be submitted there by the date specified. The papers will be worth 120 points (roughly 20% of your final grade).

**Discussion.** There will be 12 discussion forums in this course. In each forum, you will post one question about a module’s materials, as well as provide an answer to another student’s question. Strong questions and answers will clearly draw on module materials and will not be completely obvious to anyone who reviewed the materials. Eight of the discussions will count toward your final grade. Discussions will be worth 80 points (roughly 13% of your final grade).

You can use the tables below to track your performance in the course, as well as to calculate your final grade.

Assessment	Earned/Possible	Assessment	Earned/Possible
Discussion 1	_____ / 10	Exam 1	_____ / 100
Discussion 2	_____ / 10	Exam 2	_____ / 100
Discussion 3	_____ / 10	Exam 3	_____ / 100
Discussion 4	_____ / 10	Exam 4	_____ / 100
Discussion 5	_____ / 10	Paper 1	_____ / 40
Discussion 6	_____ / 10	Paper 2	_____ / 40
Discussion 7	_____ / 10	Paper 3	_____ / 40
Discussion 8	_____ / 10	<i>Exams Total:</i>	_____ / 400
Discussion 9	_____ / 10	<i>Papers Total:</i>	_____ / 120
Discussion 10	_____ / 10	<i>Discussions Total: (8 Best Scores)</i>	_____ / 80
Discussion 11	_____ / 10		
Discussion 12	_____ / 10	<i>Grand Total:</i>	_____ / 600

Final Grade	Total Points	Percent	Final Grade	Total Points	Percent
A	558-600	93-100	C	438-461	73-76
A-	540-557	90-92	C-	420-437	70-72
B+	522-539	87-89	D+	402-419	67-69
B	498-521	83-86	D	360-401	60-66
B-	480-497	80-82	F	0-359	0-59
C+	462-479	77-79			

## POLICIES

**Assessment.** To maintain the integrity of classroom exams, the use of mobile devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from Disability Services and Assistive Technology (DATC). This includes requests to use devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students found using such devices will be dismissed and receive zeroes on their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

**Attendance.** The professor will not take formal attendance. However, consistent attendance is important for performing well in the course. Classes will clarify the readings and include other material that is covered on the exams. If you cannot attend class, please download the slides from Canvas and obtain a copy of the notes from another student.

**Communication.** Please contact the professor with your questions or concerns related to this course, as well as other academic and career-related issues. Office hours are the most reliable means of contact. The professor holds three office hours per week. If you cannot attend office hours, please schedule an appointment. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. The professor generally respond to emails in two business days (not on evenings or weekends). To avoid being snagged by email filters, type PSYC 321 in the subject line. Emails requiring a lot of discussion will be referred to office hours. Other methods of contacting the professor (such as stopping by outside of office hours) are generally unreliable.

**Disabilities.** UWSP is committed to reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition where you need assistance, contact DATC on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or [DATC@uwsp.edu](mailto:DATC@uwsp.edu).

**Emergencies.** In the event of a *medical emergency*, call 911 or use one of the Red Phones in the hallways near our classroom. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide first responders to those in need. In the event of a *tornado warning*, proceed to the lowest level interior room without windows. See <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing the severe weather shelters (such as interior hallways and classrooms). Avoid wide-span structures (such as gyms, pools, or large classrooms). In the event of a *fire alarm*, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of CCC (outside MCCH). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of missing individuals. In the

event of an *Active Shooter/Code React*, run/escape, hide, fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Follow first responder instructions. See the Emergency Management site for details on emergency procedures: <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx>.

**Illegalities.** Under federal and state laws, as well as university guidelines, professors are required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur within and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents—past and current—may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities.

**Incompletes.** Incompletes will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical or emergency situations. They are not for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular activities. Incomplete requests must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be finished within one semester to avoid receiving an F in the course.

**Makeups.** Makeups assignments will only be considered for students who cannot complete them on time due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, major illnesses, or comparable reasons. Makeup requests must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, makeups must be completed within one week of the due date to receive credit for the assignment.

**Misconduct.** The professor takes instances of misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for misconduct will be a zero on the assignment. Additional penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself and others through disciplinary proceedings. To read about the university's misconduct policy, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

**Professionalism.** Respectful behavior in the classroom is necessary for an environment conducive to learning and intellectual exchange. Although the formality of this course is minimized, there are limits that you are asked to respect—1) using laptops and mobile devices appropriately (such as for taking course notes, rather than texting friends or watching videos), 2) not distracting others in the course (such as by quickly taking your seat when arriving late, rather than carrying on side conversations during lectures or rustling your backpack to leave early), and 3) focusing on our class when in this classroom (such as by participating in class activities, rather than sleeping at your desk or doing homework for other courses). Students who fail to respect these limits typically distract both the professor and other students in the class, even when trying to be polite or subtle about it. Thus, they may be asked to leave the room until they are able to respect these limits. If you believe that one or more students are hindering your educational experience, please contact me privately as soon as possible.