

## PSYC 321: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Fall Semester 2023

### PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Name: Mark A. Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Email: [mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu](mailto:mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu)  
Office: SCI D331 (or via Zoom)  
Hours: MW 10-1130am or by  
appointment

### COURSE INFORMATION

Section / Credits: 1 / 3  
Meetings: MWF 8-850am  
Location: SCI D314  
Prerequisite: PSYC 110 or permission  
GEP AD / BS: SER / ER

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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.

### COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas will be used to share materials, collect assignments, and post grades. To access Canvas, login at <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx> or use the Canvas Student app for Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid&hl=en&gl=us>) or iOS/iPadOS (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/canvas-student/id480883488>). All options will require your UWSP email and password to access. If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features, please review the helpful resources at [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, please contact Canvas Support by clicking on the Help button in Canvas.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 considers three major areas of study in environmental psychology. The first area examines how the natural environment influence human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The second examines how human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors influence the natural environment. And the third examines strategies for balancing human-nature relationships.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are two broad emphases in this course—to understand the essential concepts and principles of environmental psychology, as well as to apply them to human-nature 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

**COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Overview and Nature's Effects on Humans</b>		
1: Introduction	W 9/6, F 9/8, M 9/11	Clayton 1, Steg 1
2: Nature	W 9/13, F 9/15, M 9/18	Clayton 4, Steg 8
3: Health	W 9/20, F 9/22, M 9/25	Steg, 4, 6, & 7
<b>Humans' Effects on Nature: Individual Influences</b>		
4: Values	F 9/29, W 10/4, F 10/6	Clayton 5, Steg 17 & 22
5: Risk	M 10/9, W 10/11, F 10/13	Clayton 6, Steg 2 & 3
6: Emotion	M 10/16, W 10/18, F 10/20	Clayton 12, Steg 19
<b>Humans' Effects on Nature: Collective Influences</b>		
7: Identities	W 10/25, F 10/27, W 11/1	Clayton 8, Steg 14 & 20
8: Norms	F 11/3, M 11/6, W 11/8	Steg 15, 18, & 23
9: Conflict	F 11/10, M 11/13, W 11/15	Clayton 7, Steg 21
<b>Interventions for Human-Nature Relationships</b>		
10: Sustainability	W 11/22, M 11/27, W 11/29	Clayton 9, Steg 16 & 32
11: Information	F 12/1, M 12/4, W 12/6	Clayton 11, Steg 26
12: Policy	F 12/8, M 12/11, W 12/13	Clayton 10, Steg 27
<b>Paper Deadlines</b>	<b>Exam Dates</b>	<b>Bonus Days</b>
Paper 1: M 9/25	Exam 1: M 10/2, Modules 1-3	W 9/27, M 10/23, F 11/17, F 12/15
Paper 2: M 10/23	Exam 2: M 10/30, Modules 4-6	
Paper 3: M 11/13	Exam 3: M 11/20, Modules 7-9	<b>No Class Days</b>
Paper 4: M 12/11	Exam 4: M 12/18, 8-10am, Modules 10-12	F 11/24

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

**GRADED 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. Only 40 questions will be graded and you will choose the questions that you prefer to answer. See the calendar for dates and material covered. The exams will be worth total of 400 points (67% of your final grade).

**Papers.** There will be four papers in this course. Each paper will require you to think and analyze environmental issues using relevant materials. They will be limited to three 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 a total of 120 points (20% of your final grade).

**Participation.** There will be a number of in-class participation activities in the course. Four of them will count toward your final grade. The specific dates of in-class activities will not be announced in advance. Participation activities will be worth a total of 80 points (13% of your final grade).

**PROGRESS WORKSHEET**

You can use the tables below to track your performance in the course, as well as to calculate your final grade. Please ignore your percentage on Canvas as that is incorrect until the very end of the semester.

Assignment	Earned/Possible	Assignment	Earned/Possible
Exam 1	_____ / 100	Participation 1	_____ / 20
Exam 2	_____ / 100	Participation 2	_____ / 20
Exam 3	_____ / 100	Participation 3	_____ / 20
Exam 4	_____ / 100	Participation 4	_____ / 20
Paper 1	_____ / 30	<i>Exam Total:</i>	_____ / 400
Paper 2	_____ / 30	<i>Paper Total:</i>	_____ / 120
Paper 3	_____ / 30	<i>Participation Total:</i>	_____ / 80
Paper 4	_____ / 30	<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			

## COURSE POLICIES

**Assessment.** To maintain the integrity of classroom exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes requests to use mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students found using devices will be dismissed and receive zeroes on their exams. Additional penalties under university policy will be considered.

**Attendance.** The professor will not take formal attendance. Nonetheless, 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. Some in-class participation activities will also be included as part of your final grade. If you cannot attend class, please be sure to get the slides from Canvas and copy 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 around three office hours per week. If you cannot attend office hours, please schedule an online appointment. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. The professor generally respond to emails in two business days (but 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.

**Emergencies.** In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use one of the Red Emergency Phones down the hallway from our classroom. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to those in need. In the event of a tornado warning, move 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 SCI (across the street from MCCH). Notify staff members or emergency command personnel of any 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 the instructions of emergency responders. See the Emergency Management site for details about emergency procedures: <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx>.

**Equal Access and Disability Accommodations.** If you have a condition that may impact your learning or participation in course activities, contact the Disability Resource Center. They work with students and instructors to identify appropriate accommodations and services. Since accommodations are rarely applied retroactively, it is vital that students make timely requests. Please check out the DRC site for more information: <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>. If you have questions, feel free to email ([drc@uwsp.edu](mailto:drc@uwsp.edu)), call (715-346-3365), or stop by (108 CCC) for assistance.

**Extensions.** Extensions will generally only be considered for students who cannot complete assignments on time due to academic, athletic, military, or religious obligations, major illnesses, and comparable reasons. Requests for extensions might require documentation, such as letters from coaches or physicians. In most cases, assignments will need to be completed within one week of the initial deadline to receive credit.

**Incompletes.** Incomplete grades will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical and emergency situations. They are not for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular commitments. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by pertinent documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be completed within one regular semester (fall or spring) to avoid receiving an automatic F in the course.

**Misconduct.** The professor takes academic misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. All work submitted for this course should be generated by the students themselves. No other person, company, or entity should be used to create any substantive portion of course assignments, which includes (but is not limited to) hiring others to compose assignments or using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT. Any such submissions will be considered academic misconduct. The minimum penalty for each instance of misconduct will be a zero for the assignment. Additional penalties under university policy will be considered. Please do not put yourself or others through disciplinary hearings. To read about UWSP's policies, check out the [Dean of Students' website](#).

**Safety and Reporting.** UW-Stevens Point is committed to the promotion of safe, inclusive, and productive campuses—where people from all backgrounds and perspectives can actively and comfortably contribute to our learning communities. Thus, under federal and state laws, as well as university policies, the professor is required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur inside or outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and violence. Disclosure or description of such incidents, past or current, may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities. If you would like to report incidents anonymously, please review the options on the Dean of Students' website: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.