

**PSYC 321: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
Fall Semester 2016

**PROFESSOR**

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Hours: To be announced

**COURSE**

Section: 1  
Meetings: MWF 1-1:50pm  
Location: SCI D230  
Prerequisite: PSYC 110  
GDR/GEP: EL/ER  
Credits: 3

**TEXTBOOKS**

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

Steg, L., van den Berg, A. E., & de Groot, J. I. M. (2012). *Environmental psychology: An introduction*. Malden, MA: BPS Blackwell.

**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 discusses the three major areas of study in environmental psychology. The first area examines how the environmental affects humans' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This area focuses on issues such as how spending time outdoors can enhance our well-being. The second area of study examines how humans' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors affect the environment. This area focuses on issues such as how perceptions of risk affect our carbon footprints. The third area of study examines strategies for improving the interaction between humans and the environment. This area examines issues such as how to frame persuasive messages to encourage sustainable behavior. The course ends by considering core themes, recent developments, and future directions.

**OBJECTIVES**

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:

1. Recognize areas of interaction between human society and the natural environment.
2. Identify the individual, social, cultural, and ecological factors that affect sustainability.
3. Evaluate competing scientific and political claims that inform environmental debates.

## REQUIREMENTS

**Exams.** There will be four exams in this course. Each exam will cover 3 units in the course (around 100 pages of reading) and consist of 30 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions. You will choose the 25 multiple choice and 3 short answer questions that you would like to answer. See the calendar for exam dates and material covered. The exams will be worth 400 points or 74% of your final grade.

**Papers.** There will be two papers in this course. The papers will require you to examine and analyze environmental issues using relevant materials. They will be limited to two typed, double-spaced pages (12 point font, 1-inch margins, no wasted space, etcetera). Paper topics will be announced in class and must be submitted via D2L's dropbox by the date specified. The papers will be worth 80 points or 15% of your final grade.

**Participation.** In-class activities will periodically occur in this course. Five of them will count toward your final grade. The specific dates will not be announced in advance. Participation in class activities will be worth 60 points or 11% of your final grade.

You can record your performance in the course, as well as calculate your final grade, using the charts below.

Assessment	Earned Points	Possible Points
Exam 1	_____	100
Exam 2	_____	100
Exam 3	_____	100
Exam 4	_____	100
Paper 1	_____	40
Paper 2	_____	40
Participation 1	_____	12
Participation 2	_____	12
Participation 3	_____	12
Participation 4	_____	12
Participation 5	_____	12
<i>Total</i>	_____	<i>540</i>

Final Grade	Points	Percent
A	502-540	93-100
A-	486-501	90-92
B+	470-485	87-89
B	448-469	83-86
B-	432-447	80-82
C+	416-431	77-79
C	394-415	73-76
C-	378-393	70-72
D+	362-377	67-69
D	324-361	60-66
F	0-323	0-59

**CALENDAR**

<b>Overview of the field</b>			<b>Clayton</b>	<b>Steg</b>
Unit 1	Introduction	W 9/7, F 9/9, M 9/12	1	1
Unit 2	Natural Environments	W 9/14, F 9/16, M 9/19	4	7
Unit 3	Health	W 9/21, F 9/23, M 9/26		3, 5, 6
<b>Individual Motivations</b>				
Unit 4	Values	F 9/30, M 10/3, W 10/5	5	14
Unit 5	Risk Perceptions	F 10/7, M 10/10, W 10/12	6	2
Unit 6	Emotion	F 10/14, M 10/17, W 10/19	12	
<b>Group-Based Motivations</b>				
Unit 7	Identities	F 10/21, M 10/24, F 10/28	8	16
Unit 8	Norms	M 10/31, W 11/2, F 11/4		12, 15
Unit 9	Conflict	M 11/7, W 11/9, F 11/11	7	17
<b>Psychological Interventions</b>				
Unit 10	Sustainability	M 11/14, F 11/18, M 11/21	9	13
Unit 11	Information	W 11/23, M 11/28, W 11/30	11	21
Unit 12	Policy	F 12/2, M 12/5, W 12/7	10	22
<b>Future of the field</b>				
Unit 13	Conclusion	F 12/9, M 12/12, W 12/14		27, 28
<b>Exam Dates</b>				
Exam 1: W 9/28, Covers Units 1-3				
Exam 2: W 10/26, Covers Units 4-6				
Exam 3: W 11/16, Covers Units 7-9				
Exam 4: W 12/21, Covers Units 10-12 (8-10am)				

## POLICIES

**Assessment.** To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

**Attendance.** I will not take formal attendance in this course. Nonetheless, regular attendance is the best way to perform well. Lectures and readings only partly overlap, but material from both will be needed for the exams and paper. I generally find that students with poorer attendance records receive lower final grades in this course.

**Communication.** Please contact me with your concerns related to this course, as well as other academic and career-related issues. Office hours are the most reliable way to contact me. I hold three office hours per week. If you cannot attend office hours, please schedule an appointment. Keep in mind that office hours are not times for lecture recaps after unexcused absences. You will need to get the missed information from other students. Email is the next most reliable way to contact me. I generally respond to emails in two business days (this means that I will not be responding on evenings or weekends). To avoid being snagged by my email filters, type PSYC 321 in the subject line. Emails requiring considerable discussion will be referred to office hours. Other ways of contacting me (such as calling on the phone, stopping by outside of office hours, or flying stunt kites past my office window) are generally unreliable.

**Disabilities.** UWSP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you have a disability and require classroom, exam, or other accommodations, please register with Disability Services (LRC 609, 715-346-3365) and then contact me as soon as possible (preferably early in the semester). I am happy to help out however I can. If you are concerned that you might have a disability, contact Disability Services. They can talk with you about your concerns and provide advice on what to do next. To learn more about the Disability Services office, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>. To learn more about the university's policies and procedures, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>.

**Emergencies.** In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (located outside SCI D230). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide all emergency responders to the person in need. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of SCI (by the HEC). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any

missing individuals. In the event of an Active Shooter, Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped in a room, you should hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See UWSP Emergency Management Plan at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt> for details on all emergency response procedures.

**Illegalities.** Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, faculty are required to report acts of a criminal or offensive 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—both current and in the past—may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities.

**Incompletes.** Incompletes will only be available to students with exceptional circumstances, such as serious medical or emergency situations. They are not available for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular activities. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. Except in exceptional circumstances, incompletes must be finished within one semester to avoid receiving an F in the course.

**Makeups.** Makeup assessments will only be available to students who cannot complete them on time due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, major illnesses, or comparable reasons. Requests for makeups must be accompanied by documentation, such as letters from coaches, doctors, or spiritual leaders. Except in exceptional circumstances, makeups must be completed within a week of the initial deadline to avoid earning a zero for the assessment.

**Misconduct.** I take academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) seriously. The minimum penalty for any instance of misconduct in my classes will be an automatic zero on the specific assessment. Stronger penalties will be considered in line with university policy. Please do not put yourself or others through disciplinary proceedings. To learn more about UWSP's policy, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/documents/rightsrespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>.

**Professionalism.** UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations (called the Rights and Responsibilities document) has been developed for all students and professors. It is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>.