



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociology and Psychology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: PSY 315
Course Title: Environmental Psychology
No. of Units: 3
Status: Compulsory
Semester: Second
Session: 2016/2017

LECTURER'S DETAILS

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Area of Specialization: Personality and Social Psychology

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental psychology is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the interaction of individuals with their environments. It is interested in areas such as crowding, substandard living, environmental pollutions, urban decays and other issues that affect human wellbeing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to assist students in the following areas:

- understanding of natural and built environments and the effects of environmental stressors and disasters on human behaviour.
- familiarization with the basic concepts and theoretical approaches to environmental psychology.
- basic knowledge of the various research methods used in environmental psychology.
- learning the psychological impact of global warming on human behaviour.

LECTURE PLAN

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to Environmental Psychology.
Week 2	History and Early Contributors to the Development of Environmental Psychology.
Week 3	Basic Assumptions and Features of Environmental Psychology.
Week 4	Concepts and Challenges of Environmental Psychology.
Week 5	Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Environmental Psychology.

Week 6	Research Methods in Environmental Psychology.
Week 7	Data Collection Methods in Environmental Psychology.
Week 8	Informed Consent Issue in Environmental Psychology Research.
Week 9	General Ethical Issues in Environmental Psychology Research.
Week10	Environmental Stressors and their Effects on Human Behaviour.
Week 11	Psychological Impact of Climate Change on Behaviour.
Week 12	Contributions of Psychology to Climate Change.

ASSESSMENT

Class Attendance 5%

Tests and Assignments 25%

Final Examination 70%

READING LIST:

(a) Environmental Psychology: Fifth Edition by Paul, A. Bell, Thomas, G. Green, Jeffery, D. Fisher and Andrew Baum.

(b) Environmental Psychology: An Introduction by Linda Steg, Agnes, E., Van Den Berg and Judith I.M. de Groot.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

- 1 (a) Define environmental psychology and make a distinction between natural and built environments, citing four examples of each?
 (b) Mention six other names by which environmental psychology is known and six examples of the problems studied by environmental psychologists?
 (c) List five factors that are said to reduce crowding in buildings?

- 2 (a) Discuss the contribution of Hellpack to the development of environmental psychology?
 (b) Justify why Brunswik and Lewin are regarded as the founding fathers of environmental psychology?
 (c) Mention two modern day concerns of environmental psychology research?

- 3 (a) Describe the features of environmental psychology?
 (b) Enumerate the basic assumptions in environmental psychology?

- 4 (a) Explain the basic concepts in environmental psychology?
 (b) What are the challenges faced by environmental psychology as a field of study?

- 5 (a) Discuss the theoretical approaches to environmental psychology?
(b) Cite eight examples of environmental stressors?
- 6 (a) Describe the diversity of research methods adopted in environmental psychology, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each method?
(b) Which research method is preferred in environmental psychology and why?
- 7 (a) Explain the various data collection methods used in environmental psychology research?
(b) List the advantages and the disadvantages of each method?
- 8 (a) What do you understand by informed consent in environmental psychology research, mention its purpose and challenges?
(b) Enumerate other ethical issues related to environmental psychology research?
- 9 (a) What are environmental stressors?
(b) Define noise and crowding, stating their psychological effects on wellbeing?
(c) Define heat and air pollution, highlighting their psychological effects on wellbeing?
- 10 (a) Differentiate between climate and weather, citing two examples of each?
(b) How does weather and climate affect human behaviour?
- 11 (a) Discuss climate change, its psychological impact and the argument for, and against it?
(b) Illustrate how global warming and the greenhouse effect are attributed to human-caused intervention?
- 12 (a) Explain the concerns of environmental psychologists about weather and climate?
(b) Enumerate the contributions of psychology to the challenge of climate change?