PSYC341: Environmental Psychology

15 points, 0.1250 EFTS
Second Semester: 16 July 2018 – 18 November 2018

Academic Staff
Professor Don Hine (Course Coordinator)
Room TBA, Phone Ext. TBA.
Email: dhine@une.edu.au

Office Hours
By arrangement

Content & Objectives
This unit addresses how psychological principles can be applied to understand and help solve some of the most challenging problems facing humanity: climate change, overpopulation, resource depletion, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity.

Right from the start, I think it’s important to point out that this is not a unit in “green indoctrination”. You’ll be encouraged to think critically about the causes and potential consequences of environmental problems, and the extent to which psychology can play a role in encouraging individuals and communities to adopt more sustainable practices.

Although I ride my bike to work, have solar panels on my house, and like to wear Birkenstock sandals (with socks – apparently a Canadian thing?), I have no expectation or desire that all of you will share my values and or unreflectively accept my views. A university education provides you with an important opportunity to think deeply about important issues of the day, and formulate your own opinions about the current state of the world, and what, if anything, you want to do about it.

I should also acknowledge that I am far from the perfect role model when it comes to all matters green. I fly overseas far too often, drive my car to work most days, and manage to accumulate way too much plastic in my home. Am I making an effort to be a better human being? Definitely! But do I expect to morph into the “Green Avenger” within the next 12 months? Probably not.

After completing this unit, you should be able to:
1. Demonstrate well developed knowledge of how psychological theory and methods can be used to evaluate and help solve environmental problems;
2. Examine and formulate personal views around the underlying causes of environmental problems and how psychology can be applied to solve them;
3. Recognise and describe the strengths and limitations of the major psychological approaches for addressing environmental problems; and
4. Design an intervention to solve an environmental problem using principles from the course.

Prerequisites
PSYC206, OR 30 points of 100-level Psychology PLUS 15 points of relevant advanced courses approved by the Head of Department. RP: Any of BIOL112, GEOG106, GEOG107, GEOG108
Lecture times

Tues 4:00-4:50 pm (John Britten 117 HP Seminar Rm) and Thur 12:00-12:50pm (Karl Popper 612). But please refer to the PSYC341 course web page or My Timetable before lectures begin for rooms and any updates on lecture times. What can I say... sometimes things change.

Laboratory times

Labs will be held weekly in The Computer Suite, Room 225 Psychology Lab block. Available streams:

| Monday 3.00-5:00 pm | Thursday 3:00-5:00 pm |

The number of lab streams available will be dependent on class numbers and will not be finalised until closer to the start of term. Refer to your My Timetable or course web page for information. A notice will be put on your course in Learn as soon as this has been finalised. All students must sign up for a lab stream via My Timetable before 5 pm Friday 20th July. Access to self-allocation will be from 13th July.

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Mid-term test: Thursday 23rd August in-class – 12:00-12:50pm ...... 20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applied Project: Due 5 pm Friday 21st September .................. 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly quizzes (during labs)................................................... 5%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam (check University website for details)................................ 50%</td>
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Textbook


Recommended Books


Assignment & Change of Lab Streams

Everyone must sign up for a lab stream as described below.

Selection and change of lab streams is done via My Timetable (access from the Students page on the university web site or via the link on the course Learn homepage).

- It is not possible to sign up for a stream that is full. Please contact the department administrator Yifang Parker (yifang.parker@canterbury.ac.nz) if you have problems with lab stream signup.
- Signup should be made by 5 pm Friday 20th July in time for the commencement of labs which begin during the week of 23 – 27 July.

Laboratory Classes and Applied Project

In labs, you will complete a short quiz on the previous weeks readings, and work towards completing an applied project which will involve applying psychological principles to address an environmental problem of your choice. Your task will be as follows.

Imagine that you have been hired as a consultant by a government agency to develop, implement, and evaluate a program to address an environmental problem (e.g., low rates of recycling, excessive water use in drought prone areas, excessive use of motor vehicles, etc.).
Your task involves applying the principles of Community Based Social Marketing to:

1. Select the most impactful behaviour to help solve the problem,
2. Identify the main perceived benefits that drive the target behaviour and the main barriers that prevent it,
3. Design a behaviour change intervention to get more people to engage in the target behaviour, and
4. Develop an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of your intervention.

Please note that you are not required to actually implement and evaluate your intervention. Confused? Don’t worry. I will present a detailed lecture on the assignment, and provide you with detailed assessment guidelines in your lab book. You’ll also have tutors to guide you throughout the semester.
# PSYC341 Schedule 2018

The relevant chapter from Scott et al. (2015) is given in the **Text Chapter** column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Monday Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Thursday Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 July</td>
<td>Planet Earth: Prognosis Negative?</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>Worldviews and Enlightenment Values</td>
<td></td>
<td>2&amp;3</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Role of Psychology in Saving the Planet</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>Situational Influences on Pro-Environmental Behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>Cognitive Influences on Pro-Environmental Behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Self-Study for Test</td>
<td><strong>Test Thursday 23 August 12:00-12:50</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Mid-semester break**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
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<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>Personality and Individual Differences</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td>Green Motivation</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 7</td>
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**Research Report Due 5pm Friday 21 Sept**

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<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
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<th>Thursday Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Sept</td>
<td>Environmental Stressors and Toxins</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Connecting with Nature</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>Moving from Theory to Action</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Self-Study for Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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**Chapter Quizzes (5%)**  
Textbook chapters only. Multiple choice.

**Midterm Test (20%)**  
Covers lectures & textbook chapters prior to the mid-semester break. Multiple choice.

**Research Report (25%)**  
Due 5pm Friday 21 September (2000 words, details in lab manual)

**Exam (50%)**  
All lecture and textbook content is examinable; date advised by the University. Multiple choice and short answer.
General Department of Psychology Information

IT Services: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/its/

Learn (online learning): http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/

UC Library Subject Guide: http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc

Assessment Cover Sheets
Please attach cover sheets to the front of all your assignments. Hard copies can be found in the ground floor of the Psychology building where the assignment drop boxes are located, and electronic copies are available on LEARN.

Academic Liaison
If you have any concerns about a course, please contact the Course Coordinator in the first instance. The Department of Psychology has a Staff/Student Liaison Committee and each Semester students voluntarily represent courses from each level. Postgraduate students are represented for both Part 1 paper years and Part 2 thesis years for the whole year. A request for volunteers is sent early in the first semester.

Students with Disabilities
Please refer to the Disability Resource Service for information on study support services:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/

Policy on Dishonest Practice
Plagiarism, collusion, copying and ghost writing are unacceptable and dishonest practices.

- Plagiarism is the presentation of any material (text, data, figures or drawings, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- Collusion is the presentation of work performed in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed only by the named author(s).
- Copying is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person(s) with or without their knowledge and approval.
- Ghost writing is the use of another person(s) (with or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item submitted for assessment.

In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit, the student will be referred to the University Proctor. The instructor may choose to not mark the work.

The Department reserves the right to require work to be submitted in electronic format so that it can be submitted to plagiarism detection websites.

Special Considerations
Special Consideration for assessments is for students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented from demonstrating their knowledge or skills at the time of the assessment due to unforeseen circumstances. Students should consult the Special Considerations website for information, and contact them directly with any queries. http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/

Also on the Examinations webpage is information about Results and Appeals for final grades. The Department of Psychology policy of “substantial part of assessment” for all courses is set at 50% of all coursework. Unless a minimum of 50% of coursework is completed, final special consideration will not be given.

Marks and Grades
You will get a mark and/or a grade for each piece of assessment during the course and a final grade at the end of the course. For more information on the University regulations for credit see:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general-regulations/general-conditions-for-credit-regulations/

Reconsideration of Grades
Students can appeal any decision made on their final grade, and should, in the first instance, speak to the course coordinator about their grade. Students can apply through Student Services to appeal for up to four weeks after the release of results: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/examinations/result-dates-and-appeals/.

For more information see General Course and Examination Regulations in the University Calendar:
http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/publications/brochure-gallery/.
Complaints and Grievances
If a student encounters any problems regarding any aspect of the course, they should in the first instance approach the lecturer concerned. Failing that, they can approach the course coordinator. For more information, please see the Psychology Handbook.

Missed Tests
In rare cases a student will not be able to sit a test. In such cases, the student should consult with the course coordinator to discuss if alternative arrangements are available. **This must be done well in advance of the set date of the test.** The criteria used for approving a special sitting are the same as the UC policy used for end-of-semester examinations, which are outlined below:

- Clash with another test from other UC courses
- Religious (Conflicting religious day or event)
- Bereavement (family member or close friend)
- Study (overseas study, must be a tertiary institute)
- Sporting or cultural event (Representing NZ, Canterbury or the University of Canterbury)
- Wedding (immediate family member or part of a bridal party)
- Business (travel)

With the exception of the above criteria, tests will only be given at the regularly scheduled time and place. Missed tests will result in a score of 0% for that test.

Emergency Assembly Area
Please gather in the Psychology car park on the grassed area away from the cars and buildings.

Health & Safety Information