

## Part I

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 3450 3.0 A: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Wednesdays 7:00pm-10:00pm Vari Hall B**  
**Fall 2017**

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### Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. Michael Luther

Office: 277 BSB

Office Phone: (416) 736 5125

Office Hours: One hour prior to lecture (VH B)

Email: mluther@yorku.ca

<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Bianca Bondi</b>
Email	<a href="mailto:bbondi@yorku.ca">bbondi@yorku.ca</a>
Office	VH B
Office Hours	W 6:00pm-7:00pm

### Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

### Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

### Course Description

See Part II Page 1.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in environmental psychology.
2. Articulate trends in environmental psychology.
3. Express knowledge of environmental psychology in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings on environmental psychology.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information on environmental psychology to own and others' life experiences.

### Specific Learning Objectives

See Part II Page 5 (Goals)

## Required Text

Luther et al. (2017). "Disorders Without Borders". Concord, ON: Captus Press.

Luther et al. (2017). "Environmental Psychology" Kit. Concord, ON: Captus Press.

Select Chapters will be assigned for readings, see Part II (page 1).

## Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Group Presentations	To be Determined (During class time)	20%
Midterm Exam	October 25, 2017	25%
Final Exam	To be Determined (Dec. 2017 Exam Period)	25%
Participation	Ongoing	10%
Attendance	Ongoing	20%
Total		100%

## Description of Assignments

See Part II (Pages 4 and Page 5)

## Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2017-18](#))

## Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

See Part II (Page 6)

## Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

	<b>FALL (F)</b>	<b>YEAR (Y)</b>	<b>WINTER (W)</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 17
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	Jan. 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 10	Feb. 9	March 9
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 4	Feb. 10 - Apr. 6	March 10 - Apr. 6

**\*Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

## Information on Plagiarism Detection

No papers will be assigned in the course.

## Electronic Device Policy

No cell phones in class. Laptops are for note taking only.

## Attendance Policy

See Part II (Page 6).

## Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#).

## Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or "encouraging, enabling or causing others" (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination**

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

**Policy:** York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the COURSE CODE course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

### **Course Schedule**

See Part II (Pages 2-3).

**Part II**

**COURSE OUTLINE  
YORK UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYC 3450 3.0 A FALL 2017  
ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

COURSE DIRECTOR: DR. M. LUTHER  
ROOM Vari Hall B  
[mluther@yorku.ca](mailto:mluther@yorku.ca) (also on Moodle)  
416-736-5125  
Wednesdays – 7.00pm to 10.00pm

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

One class Presentation (20%), two Exams (25% + 25%), Attendance (20%), and Class Participation/Behavior (10%). Exams are on *Disorders Without Borders* (Course kit), assigned readings and Lectures.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

Presentation (Group)	20%
Mid Term (class #7)	25%
Final Exam (Dec.)	25%
Participation/Attitude	10%
Night Attendance	20%

**PREREQUISITES:**

AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C.  
Course credit exclusions: None

**N.B. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN SEMINARS**

**COMPULSORY TEXTS:**

(NOT TO BE COPIED)

Luther, M.G., Allen, J., and Franklin, P. (Course kit 2017), *Disorders Without Borders* and *Environmental Psychology Text Kit*

Course Description:

Environmental Psychology is about Nature and Nurture. This course is about Man in the Environment. It is Interactional (Trait vs. Situation) and epigenetic in Nature. It covers diverse environments and evolving features of Humans (i.e. physiology, genetics, behavior, personality and evil nature). The course looks at the pros and cons of environments in their extreme. Politics is analyzed too in terms of its detrimental influences.

## CLASS TERM SCHEDULE

### **1 September 13:** Biocentric / Naturalistic and Introduction

Class #1: Read: Reist and Luther Chapter: "...Biocentric Psych."

Read: Luther & Wagner Chapter: "Theory of Mind"

### **2 September 20:** Evolution & Darwin – Dr. Luther's Lecture

Class #2: Read: Jared Allen two chapters on "Evolution" from "Environ. Psych"

Sub-Lecture: Haplotypes by Dr. Luther ("Diseases and Tribes")

### **3 September 27:** Traits in Personality and Psycho History – Dr. Luther's Lecture (Freud and Jung)

Class #3: Read: Dr. Luther "Warrior Gene" Chapter and "Hexaco" Chapter in "Disorders" textbook

#### **Presentations Begin This Week!**

### **4 October 4:** Interaction Model – D. Magnussen or N. Endler

Class #4: Read: "Norman Ender" chapter in "Environ. Psych" textbook and "Dr. Magnussen Model"

### **5 October 11:** Man-Made Environmental Disasters / Subjugation of Native Populations

Class #5: Read: Diamond, J. "Mayan Collapse" and Read: "Residential Schools" chapter in "Environ. Psych" textbook

### **6 October 18:** Mountain Disaster: Natural Disaster on Mount Everest 1996

Class #6: S. Krakauer or D. Breshears books (privately bought)

### **7 October 25:** MIDTERM + Extreme Environments

Class #7: Jungle: 1994 Rwanda Genocide

Mountains: Afghanistan and Taliban

### **8 November 1:** Overcrowding

Class #8: Gaza "Behavioural Sink"

Haiti "Behavioural Sink"

### **9 November 8:** Narratives of "Jihad"; Somalia, Syria, and Iraq (ISIS)

Class #9: Syria (Aleppo)

Iraq (Mosul)

### **10 November 15:** City Degradation

Class #10: "Broken Window Theory"; Camden, Chicago, Detroit

"Superfly In the Ointment" Chapter (Part 1)

“Ferguson Effect” in USA

**11 November 22:** “Authoritarianism”, “Nazi-ism” and web of meaning

Class #11: Read: “Superfly In the Ointment” Chapter

Study Jonestown Massacre

V. Frankl’s Concentration Camp Experience

**12 November 29:** Righteousness: “Altruism” and web (“Rescue”) of meaning

Class #12: Watch: Paul Rusesabagina in “Hotel Rwanda” film

Read: “Uncertain Future” Chapter

Oscar Schindler in “Schindler’s List” film

**December: FINAL EXAM PERIOD**

**N.B.**

DO NOT MAKE HOLIDAY PLANS/TRIPS NEAR EXAM TIME!!!

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS

ALL PAPERS MUST FOLLOW CURRENT APA FORMAT!

**Group Presentations (20%):** *You CAN use Prezi, Microsoft PowerPoint* or a similar presentation-software as part of your presentation. Each group will present a one-hour presentation on their chosen topic. Be sure to speak clearly and present the information in an organized and coherent way (HINT: choose your best speakers). Do NOT simply read off your slides. Use them as a foundation for insightful discussion. Do NOT bore the class. Try to teach new things that have not yet been covered in class. Use books and scholarly journal articles ONLY. Keep non peer-reviewed information (i.e. Internet websites) to a minimum. Make sure work is divided evenly amongst group members – those who fail to contribute to their group’s efforts will be required to submit a paper on their group’s chosen topic (15-20 pages, following current APA format).

ALL group members MUST attend their own presentation. Each group will be required to provide the rest of the class with a 2-page (double-sided, single spaced) handout that contains a glossary of important terms and theories, a list of important articles and/or book chapters.

You may use a variety of media to enhance your presentation, including CDs, DVDs, films, YouTube, posters, photos, graphics etc. If you will be showing material of a graphic nature, please check with Dr. Luther before including it into your presentation, and include a disclaimer for the class prior to presenting said material. If unsure, ASK!!!

In order to fit all presentations into the allocated class time, the class MAY be divided into two smaller seminar groups (from 8:30pm to 9:50pm). Good luck!

**Goals:**

- To raise awareness of environmental influences on our emotions, behaviour, brain composition and spirit
- To learn about the impact of the environment on human populations both historically and currently
- To explore degradation of the planet's environment and atmosphere
- To learn about Charles Darwin's profound contribution to psychology
- To dissect the interaction of traits & place
- To appreciate the diversity of our natural life forms, including humans.
- To study human 'tribal' traits such as 'inherited' haplotypes and diseases
- To see the effects of diverse environment
- To learn about our positive and negative 'natures' (in situ)
- To see how personality evolves in humans
- To study the "Angels of our Better Nature" and the "Blonde Beast" in us, even now
- To examine our "good" and "bad" selves
- To explore the conditions of "malignant narcissism" and "authoritarianism" in environments
- To study rescue and Altruism
- To look at natural and mechanical disasters and their effects on humans past + present

**Penalties & Rewards:**

A) Penalties for Work NOT Done

B) Rewards for EXTRA Work done

- 1) A mandatory paper (15-20 pages, APA) for missing your group's Presentation
- 2) A mandatory paper (15-20 pages, APA) for missing the Midterm or Final Examination  
There will be NO makeup examinations without proper documentation (i.e. Doctor's Note, Attending Physician's Statement, and Deferred Standing Agreement). Please ensure that all documentation provides a CLEAR and DETAILED explanation for your absence.
- 3) A mandatory paper (15-20 pages, APA) for missing 4 or more class sessions per term (including seminars)
- 4) An extra assignment from the two course texts for missing half (6 or more) classes per term, involving summarizing and demonstrating understanding of the content of the missed lectures.
- 5) To take extra classes in both the Fall 2017/Winter 2018 terms, for negative participation (i.e. disruption of presentation, inappropriate behavior towards other classmates) or extreme and/or prolonged absences.
- 6) Bonus marks (%) for 'extra work' during the term (e.g. helping the Professor, TAs and fellow peers (i.e. volunteer note-taking for students registered with LDS).
- 7) Bonus marks (%) for volunteer work (taking on multiple topics for presentations, filling in for missed presentations, etc.)

**Fall 2017 Presentation Topics**

Class #1: Bio-centric Psychology

Class #2: Evolution

Class #3: Traits vs. Situations

Class #4: Interactional Effects

Class #5: Disasters and Native Populations

Class #6: Mountain Madness

Class #7: Human Environments (Overcrowding)

Class #8: Human Environments (War Zones)

Class #9: Jihadi Effects and Extremism

Class #10: Societal Degradation

Class #11: Authoritarianism

Class #12: Altruism and Rescue