

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 (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