

Northwest Arkansas Community College
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Discipline Code

PSYC

Course Number

2023

Course Title

Psychology of Environment and Sustainability

Catalog Description

(On Demand) As an exploration of the interrelationships between people and their surroundings, this course investigates impact of the broadly defined physical environment on human health, behavior, and emotional well-being. Topics include perception and cognition, place attachment vs territoriality, residential and urban environments, educational and workplace environments, and natural environments. Complex environmental problems are examined along with their potential impact on health and wellness as well as ecological and natural resources.

Prerequisites

None

Credit hours

3

Contact hours

3

Load hours

3

Target Audience

Environmental Psychology has no prerequisites nor is a required course in a program. It can count as Social/Behavioral credit-hours fulfillment in programs that do not require specific courses to be taken to satisfy the Social/Behavioral Sciences component completion.

Student Learning Outcomes

Theory and Content of Environmental Psychology

- Explain why environmental psychology is a science and describe the different research methods used by psychologists and other professionals.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and trends in environmental psychology.
- Application of Environmental Psychology
- Apply environmental psychological theories and principles to everyday life, various environments, and contexts.

Critical Thinking Skills in Environmental Psychology

- Respect and use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and environments.
- Identify and evaluate the source, context, and credibility of information and distinguish between research designs that permit causal inferences from those that do not.

Topics

This course begins with the history of environmental psychology as a science and explores an overview of commonly used research methods. Various topics of the course entail aspects covered in General Psychology as well as additional topics; however, this course is geared to environment-human connection:

- Research Methods
- Personality
- Cognition and Memory
- Perception
- Learning/Conditioning
- Social and Cultural Influences on Environmental Behavior
- Psychological Well-Being
- Stress and Health
- Attitudes, Appraisals, and Assessments of Environments
- Territoriality and Crowding
- Behaviors in and Influences of Residential, Urban, and Natural Environments
- Applying Environmental Psychology to Improve Educational and Workplace Environments
- Climate Change and Sustainability