

Environment and Behavior

3 Credits

Fall 2025

LOCATION: Rinker Room 106

MEETING TIMES: T | Period 3 (9:35 AM – 10:25 AM)

WEBSITE: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Instructor:

Sheila Bosch

Email: sheilabosch@ufl.edu

Office: Antevey Hall 348 | Hours: R (9:30 am – 11:30 pm), or by appointment

Zoom Personal Meeting Room: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/8978667940>

Course Description:

Explores the complex relationships between the environment (built or natural) and occupants. Examines theories and procedures for understanding environment and behavior interactions. Covers a wide variety of related topics and types of designed environments.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships of human experience and behavior within the natural and/or built environment in a variety of settings.
- Complete Institutional Review Board (IRB) online training.
- Describe several theories upon which environment-behavior studies are commonly based.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct an environment-behavior research study.
- Demonstrate an understanding of approaches to identify, analyze, and apply information from a variety of stakeholders and sources to develop a successful response to user needs.

Required Textbook:

Devlin, A. S. (Ed.) (2025). *Environmental psychology and human well-being: Effects of built and natural environments* (2nd ed.). Academic Press.

Course Communications:

The preferred method of communication in this course is email. If you have any questions before the next class meeting, send it to the instructors via Canvas message or UFL email. To meet the instructor during their office hours, it is best to schedule a specific time through e-mail. Include course # in the email subject line. For help resolving technical issues, please visit the helpdesk website or call 352-392-4357.

Materials and Supplies Fees:

None.

Expected Behavior:

Attendance is essential to the learning process. The instructor must be notified in advance of any necessary absence in person or by email, whenever possible. Students are expected to treat their peers and instructors with respect.

Academic Policies and Campus Resources:

Up-to-date information on campus policies and resources is located here:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>.

Instructional Methods:

This is a hybrid course, meaning that content will be provided in both in-person sessions and through online material. The syllabus, course assignments, due dates, additional reading material, grades and other course-related information will be available in Canvas. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly to track assignments, due dates, etc. You must post your completed assignments to Canvas by the start of class on the due date unless otherwise instructed. Please email the assignments to the instructor, on time, if you experience technical difficulties with Canvas.

Grading Policies:

Students will earn a letter grade for this course. The final grade will be based on assigned exercises, papers and a team project. Assignment evaluation and comments will be provided through Canvas for each assignment. UF grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grade breakdown:

Weekly reflections: 20%

Literature review matrix and presentation: 15%

Team project: 20%

Papers: 45%

Recommended Style Guide:

- American Psychological Association (2019). Concise rules of APA style (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- See also Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) as a quick reference guide.

Weekly Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

For detailed schedule of assignments and class activities, see course Schedule on Canvas. Disclaimer: This schedule represents our current plans and objectives. **As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity.**

Weekly Plan (Subject to change by the instructor)

All assignments listed are due on MONDAYS by 11:59 pm the day BEFORE our in-person sessions.

Week	Topic	Readings/Content	Assignments Due
1	Introduction to Environment and Behavior Studies	See Canvas	
2	Concepts, Theories and Research Approaches	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 1	Choose your lit review and presentation topic Weekly reflection
3	Territoriality, Personal Space and Crowding	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 2	Weekly reflection
4	Perception, Spatial Cognition, and Wayfinding	See Canvas	Behavioral observations assignment Weekly reflection
5	Ecopsychology and Natural Elements in the Environment	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 9 and 15	Lit review matrix and presentation assignment Weekly reflection
6	Educational Environments	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 6	Weekly reflection
7	Environments for Persons with Special Needs	See Canvas	Team Project Submission 1: Background and Relevant Evidence Weekly reflection
8	Residential Environments	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 3 and 17	Paper 1: Literature Review Summary Weekly reflection
9	Environments for Older Adults	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 4 and 14	Team Project Submission 2: Introduction, Data Collection and Analysis Methods Weekly reflection
10	Design to Enhance Mental and Behavioral Health	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 13	Weekly reflection
11	Healthcare Environments	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 12	Paper 2: Campus building assessment Weekly reflection
12	Workplace Settings	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 7	Weekly reflection

13	The Environment and Consumer Behavior	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 8	Team Project Submission 3: Summary of findings and recommendations Weekly reflection
14	Environmental Criminology and High Security Facilities	See Canvas, Devlin Ch 11	Weekly reflection
15	FALL BREAK – HAPPY THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS		
16	Final Presentations		Team Project Submission 4: Final Presentation (DATE TBD)