



SYLLABUS

ENR 3400

The Psychology of Environmental Problems

Autumn 2020 (full term)

3 credit hours

Online

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Bruskotter, Professor

Email address: bruskotter.9@osu.edu (preferred)

Phone number: 614-595-7036 (cell; emergencies only)

Office location: 379D Kottman Hall

Office hours: By appointment via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Email address:

Office hours:

Prerequisites

ENR 2300 or PSYCH 1100

Course description

Catalog description: The theory and psychology behind individual and group behavior as it relates to environmental problems.

Environmental science emerged during the 1960s and 70s as an interdisciplinary field integrating the biological and physical sciences toward the protection and preservation of the

environment. In recent decades, the field has broadened in scope to include study of the social, psychological, and economic dimensions of environmental problems. Likewise, traditional resource management fields (i.e., forestry, fisheries, wildlife) have increasingly recognized the importance of integrating “human dimensions” into professional training and practice.

Coincident with these changes, psychologists began investigating the psychological aspects of environmental dilemmas, noting that the discipline can provide powerful insight into *why* humans make the choices that they do in relation to the environment. Armed with this information, practitioners are capable of devising interventions that influence environmentally relevant choices and behaviors. Thus was born the field of *Conservation Psychology*.

Decades of research across a variety of fields show that helping people *understand* the magnitude of environmental problems often fails to elicit behavioral change; knowledge gained from such interventions is insufficient. Rather, information about a problem must be provided in ways that captures public attention and appeals to fundamental values, aligns with social norms, as well as removes any barriers to the ideal behavior (e.g., building bike paths if you want to encourage more biking). ENR 3400 is designed to provide an overview of psychological perspectives on human behavior with a focus on behaviors that are impactful to the environment, and to provide students with the ability to apply this knowledge to improve communication, policy and outreach for public audiences.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- ... *recognize* and *articulate* different perspectives/theories concerning human thought and behavior contribute to environmental problems.
- ...*recognize* basic psychological concepts (e.g., values, attitudes, beliefs, norms, risk perceptions, etc.), and *articulate* how these concepts are used to explain environmentally significant behavior.
- ...*recognize* how to design interventions that are likely to be more effective at influencing human judgments, decisions and behaviors, and be able to select appropriate intervention strategies to address environmental issues.
- ...*demonstrate* critical thinking concerning how context (i.e., the social and physical environment), human thought, and public policy combine to shape human behavior.

HOW THIS ONLINE COURSE WORKS

Mode of delivery: This course is 100% online; roughly 90% of content will be delivered asynchronously – meaning students can access and complete materials online on their own time; roughly 10% (2-4 sessions) will be synchronous (live).

Pace of online activities: This course is divided into **modules** that cover roughly two weeks of content. All modules will be visible on Carmen at the start of the course, so students will be able to see the topics we will cover. However, some content (e.g., Dr. Bruskotter’s video updates and quizzes/assignments) will appear as the course progresses. Whenever a quiz or test is posted, we will make an announcement and send an email to students as a reminder. Quizzes, assignments, and tests all have deadlines. Students are expected to pay attention to deadlines, but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to Ohio State policy (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

Attendance and participation requirements: Because this is an online course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of students’ expected participation:

- **Participating in online activities for attendance: AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**
You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen every week. (During most weeks you will probably log in multiple times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, contact me *as soon as possible*.
- **Office hours and live/synchronous sessions: OPTIONAL**
All live, scheduled events for the course, including my office hours, are optional.
- **Participating in PackBack discussions: ~2-3 TIMES PER WEEK**
Our goal for using Packback is to facilitate critical thought and exchange of ideas concerning the topics discussed in course. Additionally, use of Packback will help you to: (a) develop writing skills necessary in your career, (b) learn to communicate clearly and concisely about complex topics, and (c) reinforce critical life skills, such as the ability to justify thoughts and claims with credible evidence.

Students are **required to submit at least 1 question and 3 answers to questions every week (beginning in week 2)**.

In order to receive points each week, **all questions must be submitted by Wednesday 11:59PM each week**; answers can be posted any time, but **to receive credit for the week you must submit answers no later than Sunday 11:59PM**.

Please Note: It takes ~24 hours for the Packback team to moderate a post and send a coaching email. If by any reason your post is moderated because it does NOT meet the

Community Guidelines, you will need to edit and re-publish your post to receive credit for the week. This is why it is important that you complete your Packback questions and responses far before the deadline in case your post is moderated

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Textbooks

Required:

- Heberlein T.A. (2012) Navigating Environmental Attitudes. Oxford University Press: New York, NY.

Recommended/optional

- Suggested: Clayton, S and G. Myers. (2009) Conservation Psychology: Understanding and promoting human care for nature. Wiley-Blackwell: West Sussex, UK
- Suggested: Koger, S.M. and Winter, D.D. (2010) The psychology of environmental problems: Psychology for sustainability. Psychology Press: New York, NY.

Other fees or requirements

- Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Typically there is a nominal (~\$25) fee for use of PackBack (the fee goes down if you have multiple courses).

Course technology

Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- PackBack online discussion forum (vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions)
- Navigating Carmen (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- CarmenZoom virtual meetings (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)
- Recording, editing, and uploading video (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)

Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Required software

- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform (www.packback.co) will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community designed to help students ask and answer questions in an online environment.

How to Register on Packback

An email invitation will be sent to you from holla@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co/login> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can login with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Join a Community" module in Packback.
Note: Community Lookup Code: **[TBA]**
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team

If you have ANY questions or concerns regarding Packback throughout the semester, please contact the customer support team at holla@packback.co!

GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE

How your grade is calculated

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY	%
Participation & PackBack Discussions	15
Quizzes & Assignments	35

Exam 1	10
Exam 2 (Cumulative)	15
Exam 3 (Final, Cumulative)	25
Total	100

See course schedule below for due dates.

Descriptions of major course assignments

Quizzes & Assignments

This course is divided into modules, each with roughly 2 weeks of content. Each module contains at least one quiz or assignment that covers the content of that module. Because the learning objectives of the course focus on application (as opposed to simple memorization), quizzes and assignments will typically ask you to *apply* what you have learned in that module to some other context. Quizzes and assignments are generally short in length – at most, they will take you an hour or so to complete. **Integrity:** Quizzes and assignments are designed to prompt application and critical thought. As such, we encourage students to work together on quizzes and assignments; to challenge each other and debate the appropriate response to the question at hand.

Packback Discussions

Students are required to submit at least 1 question and 3 answers to questions every week (beginning in week 2). In order to receive points each week, all questions must be submitted by Wednesday 11:59PM each week; answers can be posted any time, but to receive credit for the week you must submit answers no later than Sunday 11:59PM. Please Note: It takes ~24 hours for the Packback team to moderate a post and send a coaching email. If by any reason your post is moderated because it does NOT meet the Community Guidelines, you will need to edit and re-publish your post to receive credit for the week. This is why it is important that you complete your Packback questions and responses far before the deadline in case your post is moderated. **Integrity:** Packback discussions allow us to determine the extent to which students comprehend the concepts presented in course. Your questions and answers should be your own, and where your logic relies on the work of others, this work should be properly cited. For more information see the guidelines on Discussion and Communications p.9).

Exams

There are three exams for the course, spaced about ~4-5 weeks. All exams will be cumulative (students are responsible for all content covered in the course). Exams are open book and open note. Exams will be administered through Carmen/Canvas, and will be open for 12 hours on the date they are scheduled. Students who miss an exam because they are sick or taking care of someone who is sick must provide a written doctor's note. Other extenuating circumstances (e.g., sports travel) should be cleared with the instructor before the exam.

Late assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted. If you need to be absent on the day an assignment is due, please arrange to complete that assignment before the due date (you can make arrangements with the course TA). Please refer to Carmen for due dates.

Grading

Per OSU policy, letter grades will be assigned accordingly:

90–92.9: A-
87–89.9: B+
83–86.9: B
80–82.9: B-
77–79.9: C+
73–76.9: C
70–72.9: C-
67–69.9: D+
60–66.9: D
Below 60: E

Instructor feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-4357(HELP)** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

- **Grading and feedback:** For tests or quizzes, you can expect feedback within **7 days**, usually sooner.

- **Email:** Generally I will reply to emails within **24 hours of a business day (I try not to email on weekends)**. If you have questions about the course or assignments, please start by emailing the course TA.
- **PackBack discussion board:** Generally, while Packback moderates questions posted to the discussion board, Dr. Bruskotter and the TA will monitor and occasionally participate in discussions as well. Because of the volume of posts on the discussion board, we cannot monitor all posts. Thus, if you have a specific question that requires our attention please email us.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** Whether writing posts for PackBack or your annotated bibliography, please be sure to pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- **Tone and civility:** Before you start posting to PackBack, be sure to read the Community Guidelines found in the tutorial on PackBack. If your post doesn't follow the PackBack **Community Guidelines**, there is a chance it will be removed and you won't receive points for that post. Please maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online, and often is the cause of negative interactions.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and if quoting the page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

Academic integrity policy

See **Descriptions of major course assignments**, above, for my specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

Ohio State's academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State

University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's *Code of Student Conduct* (studentconduct.osu.edu), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct web page (go.osu.edu/coam)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course. Any materials restricted by fair use will be provided securely via the university library.

Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can

arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options at titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu. Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin and disability. For more information on OIE, visit equity.osu.edu or email equity@osu.edu.

Commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at go.osu.edu/ccsondemand. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at go.osu.edu/wellnessapp.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requesting accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- Canvas accessibility (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- CarmenZoom accessibility (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)
- Packback (<https://www.packback.co/resources/>)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please refer to the Carmen course page for up-to-date assignment due dates. Note, any change to the content or schedule will be announced on Carmen (in the announcements).

The course schedule is still under development and will be updated on the syllabus and posted to Carmen before the start of the term.