

ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR (PSYCH 3420/FCS 3620)

In this class we study how people relate to their physical environment (not the social environment). The physical environment includes the built environment such as buildings, communities, parks and plazas. The natural environment includes nature, such as how we use nature for recreation and for restoration (to make ourselves feel better). We also study whether people protect nature and conserve resources through waste reduction and recycling.

There are two required exams and one optional comprehensive final. The comprehensive final can replace one exam score. Students will also write three papers from four options. Each paper is structured around a different research literature. Students use the literature to guide their experiences of different environments. For example, one assignment asks whether a theory about park use provides an accurate description of park use in Salt Lake City.

Service learning mode (Psych 3904-005). The service learning mode is optional. Students should plan to attend the class meetings Mondays immediately after the regular class. They should also expect to work three hours a week in a government or nonprofit agency. Students can locate their own service opportunity, or they can choose from several to be presented in class. For example Stephanie Duer, Salt Lake City Water Conservation officer, needs help in assessing water use by Salt Lake City businesses. Dorothy Adams at the Salt Lake Valley Health Department needs help promoting an education program. The University has a variety of needs including evaluating how people use directional signs around the university. The idea is that students use the knowledge they gain in the class to help these agencies improve their services.