



# Psyc 311

## Ecological Psychology

Spring 2012, Kinard 102, T/R 9:30-10:45, Section 301-001, Call #21145

### Jeff Sinn, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology

Kinard 132, phone: 323-2638 fax: 2371

[sinnj@winthrop.edu](mailto:sinnj@winthrop.edu) [faculty.winthrop.edu/sinnj/](http://faculty.winthrop.edu/sinnj/)

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ *ask for in class*

### Office Hours:

Monday: 2:00-4:00

Tues/Thur: 3:15-4:30, Tuesday: 10:45-12:15

1. *Other times by appointment.*
2. *Don't hesitate to call me at home, 9am-8pm.*

**Catalog Description:** Study of modern self-conception from naturalistic, environmental perspective

**Overview:** This class examines the notion of self and identity within a historically-situated, interconnected, naturalistic framework. Specifically, we explore the relationship between the notion of self and an ecological understanding of the world. We will examine and relate the concepts of modernity, technology, desire, capitalism, career, nature, evolution, community, individual, dwelling, food, entertainment, freedom, holism, atomism, and wisdom. We will draw on areas of research within the social sciences, ecology, philosophy, agriculture, and city planning.

**Department of Psychology Goals Addressed:** #3 Critical Thinking Skills; #4 Application of Psychology; #5 Values in Psychology; #7 Communication Skills.

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/Psychology/studentlearninggoals.htm>.

**Objectives:** You will learn to:

1. Summarize the nature of the ecological crisis, especially regarding global warming and species extinction.
2. Explain how features of the modern, western self (independence, agency, inner depth, authenticity, self-mastery, mastery over nature, instrumental reasoning) encourages unsustainable behaviors and institutions.
3. Explain how the technologies related to agriculture and city design both shape/reflect the self.
4. Describe a more naturalistic, ecologically situated understanding of the self based on evolutionary and ecological frameworks.
5. Write more effectively.
6. Argue, discuss, and apply complex, interconnected idea.

**Texts:** (3 total)

1. Reader. (Order by **second meeting of class at latest**): Go to [www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com) then "**Students Store**". Payments made by credit card or electronic check. Orders shipped within 24 hours. You'll get a code for accessing the first 20% of material as PDF while waiting for course pack to arrive. Call 800.200.3908 if you have trouble. *Note: I'll expect you to have a physical copy of whatever we're reading with you during class.*

2. Fast Food Nation, by Eric Schlosser. Paperback (or Hardback), Harper Perennial; 1st edition (January 8, 2002), ISBN-10: 0060938455, ISBN-13: 978-0060938451. 3. Suburban Nation, by Andres Duany et al., Paperback – original 2001 or 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

**Engagement:** Throughout the course I will assess your level of preparation for class and your contribution to the learning environment of the class. I'd hesitate to call this "participation," because participation by itself is only part of what I'm looking for. I'll assess this in numerous ways:

- Preparation for class – homework, reading, & studying
- Study of material covered in previous class; Asking questions, intellectual curiosity
- Attendance & Timeliness. (Note: Student athletes should submit a "Request for Leniency" for each class missed due to athletic commitments. Corrections to the attendance sheet are due within 1 week of the date in question.)
- Bringing readings to class – having the texts being discussed physically with you for class
- **What if the class is too easy, can I just skip it?** If you don't find class time a valuable learning experience, tell me, and we'll work out an alternative arrangement. I won't be offended, and we can cook up something you find more valuable. However, if you don't talk to me, I'll assume you are simply skipping class.

**Grading:**

Quiz Grades	Other Grades	Component	Percentage	Grading Scale	
Q1		Test 1	15%	A	94-100
Q2		Test 2	20%	A-	90-93
Q3		Test 3 (Final)	25%	B+	87-89
Q4		Paper #1	10%	B	84-86
Q5		Paper #2	10%	B-	80-83
Q6		Quizzes	10%	C+	77-79
Q7		Engagement	10%	C	74-76
Q8			<b>100%</b>	C-	70-73
Q9				D+	67-69
Q10				D	64-66
Q11				D-	60-63
Q12				F	59 or less
Q13					

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability and need accommodations, please tell me immediately so we can work out a plan. You must also contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. You will provide me with the Professor Notification Form so I can make whatever accommodations you need.

**Class Partner:** I recommend you pick a class partner as a backup system in case an emergency arises and you miss class. If you ever miss class, your class partner should collect the hand-outs, assignments, and notes, and get this information to you. As a last resort, you can see me for materials during my office hours.

**Responsibility for Missed Classes:** If you must miss a class, **you** are responsible for **contacting other students** in the class to learn what was missed (assignments, readings, changes to test dates, handouts, etc.) before the next class meeting. For example, if work is assigned on a day you miss and it is due the next class period, you are still responsible for the assigned work. If you cannot get the needed information from other students, contact me.

**Request for Leniency:** If a situation beyond your control causes you to miss class or lose points you can ask for me to take that into account by promptly submitting a short email. I will assess these only at the very end of the semester in view of our cumulative performance. These are due within one week of the event. I'm usually very generous. Athletes should do this for each class missed due to sports commitment. Email me with **LENIENCY REQUEST 311** in the subject field, and state the following (without attachments):

- Date of the problem (e.g, when you missed class, didn't have your homework done, etc.)
- Simple explanation of what happened (e.g., death in the family, illness, alien abduction, etc.).

**Test Make-ups:** Given a legitimate reason for missing an exam, a student can make-up a test. To justify your reason, you must contact me as soon as humanly possible and provide written documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter, an obituary notice, a sample of digested paper from your dog's stomach, etc.)

**Monitoring of Winthrop Email Account:** Check your Winthrop Email account everyday M-F for announcements. Be sure to get on the listserve if you've registered late: From your Winthrop email account, email [imailsrv@class.winthrop.edu](mailto:imailsrv@class.winthrop.edu). As your message type

→ subscribe PSYC311001 Fred Flintstone (replacing Fred Flintstone with your name).

**Academic Honesty:** You must do your own work. When in doubt, ask. Dishonest can result in severe penalties, including a grade of F in the course. You are also obliged to report any suspicious activity. Failure to report academic dishonesty constitutes academic dishonesty.