Psychology 4646: Socio-Ecological Psychology
Spring 2020
Thursday @2:10-4pm
405 Schermerhorn Hall

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Office hours: TBA

Course Description:
This course explores the ways in which socio-ecological factors such as residential mobility, density, and geography affect individuals’ thoughts, feelings, and actions, and the way in which individuals’ thoughts, feelings, and actions help create particular socio-ecological conditions.

Week 1 (Jan 23): Organizational Meeting (background in Oishi & Graham, 2010, Perspectives on Psychological Science; Oishi, 2014, Annual Review of Psychology)

Week 2 (Jan 30): Social Ecology and Adaptations

Week 3 (Feb 6): Social Ecology and Relationships
2. Alex de Tocqueville (1840/1862). Democracy in America (Vol 2. Sec 2: Ch. 2-5 p. 119-134)
   https://books.google.com/books?id=dtwZAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=axles+toqueville+democracy+in+america&hl=ja&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiG4JewhpnAhVEnFkKHdkeDCUQ6AEIKDAA#v=onepage&q=individualism&f=false

Week 4 (Feb 13): Social Ecology and Relationships
1. Richard Florida (2002): The rise of creative class (Ch. 1 & 16)
2. Thomson et al. (2018): Relational mobility. PNAS

Week 5 (Feb 20):
In-Class Midterm Essay Exam

Week 6 (Feb 27): SPSP: Social Ecology and Emotion

Week 7 (Mar 5): Social Ecology and Politics
Week 8 (Mar 12): Social Ecology and Morality
1. Sales (1972). Economic recession and religion. JPSP

Week 9: Spring break!!

Week 10 (Mar 26): Social Ecology and the Economic Behavior
2. DeVoe et al. (2013). Fast food and financial impatience. JPSP

Week 11 (Apr 2): Social Ecology and Personality
2. Jokela et al. (2015). Geography of personality. PNAS

Week 12 (Apr 9): Social Ecology and Well-Being

Week 13 (Apr 16): Social Ecology and Human Development

Week 14 (Apr 23): Future Directions?
1. Payne et al. (2017). Inequality and risk taking behavior. PNAS

Week 15 (Apr 30). Wrap-up

Assignments and Points Allocation:
1. You are expected to read all the required readings every week before each class, and turn in one-page questions/comments on the readings via e-mail. Each reaction paper will be graded on a 4-point scale (4 = very thoughtful/insightful; 3 = somewhat thoughtful/insightful; 2 = some sign of thought; 1 = not thoughtful). 44 points in total.
2. The in-class essay exam in Week 5 (Feb 20th) is an “open-book” exam to assess your understanding of materials covered up to that point, and to give you an opportunity to reflect on topics that interested you most up to that point. 10 points
3a. (for undergraduate students) A term paper (8-10 pages, references included). 20 points. Due on the last class.
3b. (for graduate students) A term paper (10-15 pages, references included). 20 points. Due on the last class
3. Class participation: 2 points (0 = absence; 1 = present but not focused/attentive; 2 = active listening/participation) per session, or 26 points in total.

Grading (100 points in total)
A+ = 95 or higher; A = 90-94, A- = 88-89; B+ = 86-87; B = 82-85; B- = 80-81; C+ = 78-79; C = 72-77; C- = 70-71; D+ = 68-69; D = 63-67; D- = 61-62; F = 60 or lower.
*No laptops:* Recent research suggests that note-taking by writing, rather than by typing, improves conceptual learning (see Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014). Additionally, with laptops, tablets, and phones, some students distract others by viewing non-course material during class.