MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NO., HOURS, AND TITLE: ARC 503
Environmental Behavior Studies in Architecture

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar introduces students of architecture to environmental behavior studies. The course deals with the complex relationships between people and their physical, social, and cultural environments. Students are introduced to common core of theories and methods rooted in the environmental design professions, social and physical sciences, and the humanities.

PREREQUISITE TO: NA

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to help students to develop a critical appreciation of the core concerns in the field of environment-behavior studies, including its values, concepts, foundational research, leading scholars, primary areas of inquiry, and emerging theories.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. To familiarize students with the theoretical conception and approaches employed in environment behavior studies.
2. To familiarize students with environment perception and cognition.
3. To familiarize students with social processes and the environment.
4. To familiarize students with individual development and the environment.
5. To familiarize students with research methods in environment psychology.
6. To familiarize students with concepts and ideas of the natural environment.
7. To familiarize students with concepts and ideas of the built environment.
8. To familiarize students with concepts and ideas of the city and urban design.
9. To develop an understanding of environment behavior studies are, and how it relates to design.
10. To develop skills of critical thinking, quality research, and clear communication through readings, class presentations, discussions, and a research report.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

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<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Percentages of Time</th>
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<td>I. Theoretical concepts of the environment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Environment perception and cognition</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Social processes and the environment.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>IV. Individual development and the environment.</td>
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<td>V. Research methods in environment behavior studies</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>VI. Concepts and ideas of the natural environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII. Concepts and ideas of the built environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII. Concepts and ideas of the city and urban design.</td>
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<td>IX. Environment behavior studies are, and how it relates to design.</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Readings: This course operates as a graduate level seminar. Students should read and reflect critically on all readings prior to class. Be prepared to share questions and reflections on the readings during discussions. Readings for class come from multiple sources, including.

Requirements: Requirements for this course include:
- Lead discussion of readings (small group)
- Critique of literature review
- Full sentence outline, literature review paper
- Literature review paper
- Literature review presentation
- EBS Research Project

**Lead discussion of readings.** Students will work in small groups to prepare and lead discussion of the readings each week. Students leading the discussion for each week will read material in advance, and will work together to prepare a brief report (1-2 pp) that will serve as the basis for discussion that week. The brief report will identify provocative and compelling questions generated by the readings; possible connections and contradictions between these readings and other class material; and suggested possibilities for future research and thinking tied to readings. The report is intended to promote reaction and to open discussion and questions,
rather than to provide conclusions or to summarize material. Reports should be distributed to the professor and all students at least 24 hours before class, and will be used as a guide for class discussion that week.

**Critique of a literature review paper.** Each student will identify a recent, published literature review on a topic of interest in environment-behavior studies. Students will critique this paper, in terms of its thoroughness, analytical insights, and contributions to advancing the field.

**Literature review paper.** Each student will write a 20 page paper (double-spaced, plus references), critically reviewing the empirical research and theory on a specific topic in environment-behavior studies, and identifying important directions for future research and for application to planning and design.

**Literature review presentation.** Students will give 15 minute Powerpoint presentations, summarizing major themes and analytical insights from their literature review papers.

**Active and prepared participation in class.** Attendance is required for all classes; no unexcused absences are permitted. Active participation in class discussions is expected. Participation should emphasize critical analysis of readings and discussion of material presented in class.

**EBS Research Project.** Students will be responsible for the identification, design and completion of an EBS research project of a small scale. To include; an introduction of the phenomena, a brief literature review, the research design, the research analysis and research discussion.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

**Required:**
