



COURSE DESCRIPTION CARD - SYLLABUS

Course name

PERCEPTION PSYCHOLOGY

Course

Proposed by Discipline

Architecture and Urban Planning

Type of studies

Doctoral School

Form of study

full-time

Year/Semester

II/3

Course offered in

English

Requirements

elective

Number of hours

Lecture

8

Tutorials

Projects/seminars

Number of credit points

2

Lecturers

Responsible for the course/lecturer:

D.Sc. Eng. Arch. Marta Pieczara

email: marta.pieczara@put.poznan.pl

phone: +48 61 665 3260

Faculty of Architecture

Poznan University of Technology

ul. J. Rychlewskiego 2,

60-965 Poznan, Poland

Responsible for the course/lecturer:



Prerequisites

Knowledge:

- general knowledge in the fields of history and human sciences,
- basic knowledge of human behavior and its causes,
- awareness and understanding of non-technical aspects and effects of engineering activities, including their impact on the environment and the related responsibility for decisions made.

Skills:

- communication abilities, proficiency in critical evaluation, and capacity to participate in scientific dialogue,
- ability to obtain information from literature, databases, and other adequately selected sources.

Social competencies:

- student understands the need for lifelong learning and is aware of the need for interdisciplinary research and the social role of science.

Course objectives:

The course aims to familiarize doctoral students with the basic concepts and theories on how humans perceive the surrounding environment. The course contents will cover the basics of modern environmental psychology, variables and invariables of human spatial behavior, the theory of meaning in different disciplines, and the psychological effects of colors. Implementational examples will be referenced to indicate the applicability potential of perception theories to enhance the quality of life and the quality of the living environment.

The goal is to encourage doctoral students to contextualize the research they lead in engineering disciplines within the framework of human sciences concerning the perception of the environment. As part of the assessment, course participants will be asked to assess the possibility of using the acquired knowledge in the discipline they represent and/or in their own research projects.

Course-related learning outcomes

Knowledge

A PhD student who graduated from doctoral school knows and understands:

- 1) global achievements, covering theoretical foundations as well as general and selected specific issues that are relevant to scientific disciplines studied at the doctoral school, to the extent that enables revision of existing paradigms, [P8S_WG/SzD_W01]
- 2) fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization, [P8S_WK/SzD_W05]
- 3) economic, legal, ethical, and other vital conditions related to scientific activity. [P8S_WK/SzD_W06]

Skills

A Ph.D. student who graduated from doctoral school can:

- 1) use the knowledge from different branches of science to creatively identify, formulate, and to innovatively solve complex problems or to execute research tasks in particular:
 - define the aim and subject of scientific research,
 - form a research hypothesis,
 - develop research methods, techniques, and tools and use them creatively,



- draw conclusions based on research results, [P8S_UW/SzD_U01]
- 2) communicate on specialist issues on the level that allows active participation in the international scientific community, [P8S_UK/SzD_U04]
- 3) initiate a debate, [P8S_UK/SzD_U06]
- 4) participate in scientific discourse, [P8S_UK/SzD_U07]

Social competencies

A PhD student who graduated from doctoral school is ready to:

- 1) critically evaluate their own contribution to the development of a given scientific discipline, [P8S_KK/SzD_K02]
- 2) acknowledge the importance of knowledge in solving cognitive and practical problems, [P8S_KK/SzD_K03]
- 3) fulfilling the social obligations of researchers and creators, [P8S_KO/SzD_K04]

Methods for verifying learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcomes presented above are verified as follows:

PQF code	Methods for verification of learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
W01, W05, W06	Undertaking a brief project aimed at demonstrating the application of acquired knowledge in addressing scientific inquiries pertinent to the field of study of the doctoral student	Evaluation of knowledge and skills based on the assessment project
U01, U04, U06, U07	Undertaking a brief project aimed at demonstrating the application of acquired knowledge in addressing scientific inquiries pertinent to the field of study of the doctoral student	Evaluation of knowledge and skills based on the assessment project
K02, K03, K04	Undertaking a brief project aimed at demonstrating the application of acquired knowledge in addressing scientific inquiries pertinent to the field of study of the doctoral student	Evaluation of knowledge and skills based on the assessment project

Program content

The program content covers the basic concepts and theories on how humans perceive the surrounding environment. It is based on selected aspects of environmental psychology, explaining perception mechanisms in the individual and social dimensions, pointing out the constant principles of perception and individual variations.



Course topics

1. Environment Perception: introduction and discussion of the fundamental paradigms of modern environmental psychology, explaining the cognitive and perceptual mechanisms in the individual and social dimensions; landscape perception theories and the relationship between the environment and human behavior,
2. Human Spatial Behavior: factors influencing human use of space,
3. Theory of Meaning: presentation of main theories concerning meaning and the use of signs in different disciplines (e.g., semiotics, iconology),
4. Perception of Colors: the role of colors in perceiving the environment, the nature of some visual illusions, and the psychological effects of colors.

Teaching methods

Lecture: Multimedia presentation including illustrations and examples. Discussion panel.

Bibliography

Basic

1. Barthes, R. *S/Z*, translated by Miller, R., Blackwell Publishing, London, UK, 1990.
2. Bell, P. A.; Greene, T. C.; Fisher, J. D.; Baum, A. S. *Environmental Psychology*, 5th (fifth) Edition, Harcourt College Publishers, San Diego, US, 2001.
3. Hall, E. T. *The Hidden Dimension*, Anchor Books, New York, US, 1990.
4. Lluch, J. S. *Color for Architects*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, US, 2019.

Additional

1. Barthes, R. *Rhetoric of the image*. In Barthes, R. *Image, music, text*, translated and edited by Heath, S., Fontana Press, London, UK, 1977, pp. 32–51.
2. Eco, U. *A Theory of Semiotics*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, US, 1976.
3. Eco U. *Function and Sign: The Semiotics of Architecture* [in:] N. Leach (ed.), *Rethinking Architecture. A reader in cultural theory*, Routledge, London, UK, 1997.
4. Grondin, S. *Psychology of perception*, Springer International Publishing, Cham, Switzerland, 2016.
5. Lynch, K. *The Image of the City*, MIT Press, Cambridge, US, 1960.
6. O'Connor, Z. *Colour harmony revisited*. *Color Res. Appl.*, 35, 2010, pp. 267-273.]
7. Raaphorst, K.; Duchhart, I.; van der Knaap, W.; Roeleveld, G.; van den Brink, A. *The semiotics of landscape design communication: towards a critical visual research approach in landscape architecture*, *Landscape Research*, 2017, 42(1), pp. 120–133.
8. Stokols, D. *Environmental Psychology*, *Annual Review of Psychology*, 1978, Vol. 29, pp. 253–295.

Breakdown of average student's workload

	Hours	ECTS
Total workload	50	2,0
Classes requiring direct contact with the teacher	8	0,0
Doctoral student's own work (literature studies, preparation for tutorials, project preparation) ¹	42	2,0

¹ delete or add other activities as appropriate