

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA – ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 79.261**  
**SEMINAR PRESENTATION & PAPER**  
**15% for Presentation; 25% for Paper**

**Purpose:** To explore EBS theories in a group setting through film analysis, presentations, discussions and a theory paper.

**Description:** A **30-minute presentation** synthesizing perspectives from course readings and observations gained through film analysis; **PLUS** a jointly-written theory paper outlining your findings. See page 17-18 below for suggested readings for each film.

**Instructions:** Students will form seminar groups of 3 people each and select a film/theme they wish to explore (inform the Instructor asap about your choices). Presentations will address a reading or theory associated with the indicated lecture theme, as well as a **motion picture** to be viewed by the group **outside of class time**. It is the responsibility of the seminar group to obtain the recommended readings. You may concentrate on one reading/theory, or highlight several. (If you wish to address a particular theory referred to in the Gifford textbook, then you will need to orient your presentation to discussing the **original** article or book this theory came from, not the Gifford text). If you are going to highlight readings in addition to those recommended, you must tell the instructor at least a week in advance of your presentation. The Instructor and TA will facilitate discussion in separate classrooms. The purpose of the Seminar Presentation is to comment not so much on the film itself (plot structure, special effects, music, etc), but the **behavioural implications** of the physical environments being portrayed. Possible presentation themes include:

- the behaviour of the characters in the film as it can be related to the environment;
- the characteristics/components of the environment as it relates to the behaviour of the characters;
- the extent to which characters draw their identity and strength from the physical settings in the film;
- the design elements that were created specifically for the film (i.e., sets) and any real locations, and the extent to which these may have implications for behaviour;
- what the filmmakers appear to be saying about the nature of our relationship with the natural or built environment; or
- what the filmmakers appear to be saying about the role and responsibility of the designer in society.

What is essential is that your comments **must** be supported with references to theories or articles from those recommended (below) or else readings from the lectures, the textbook (Gifford 2003), the *Handbook of Environmental Psychology* (on reserve).

SEMINAR	DATE	THEME	FILM	GROUPS	
One	Jan. 26th	Environment- Human relations; Behaviour Settings	<i>Blast from the Past</i>	A	B
			<i>The Nightmare Before Christmas</i>	C	D
Two	Feb. 2nd	Research Methods & Paradigms	<i>Kitchen Stories</i>	E	F
			<i>Das Experiment</i>	G	H
Three	Feb. 9th	Perception, Cognition & Wayfinding	<i>The Matrix</i>	I	J
			<i>Cube</i>	K	L
Four	Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Personal Space, Crowding & Territoriality	<i>Soylent Green</i>	M	N
			<i>The Omega Man</i>	O	P
Five	Mar. 2nd	Home Environments	<i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i>	Q	R
			<i>Life as a House</i>	S	T
Six	Mar. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Gender	<i>Far from Heaven</i>	U	V
			<i>Amelie</i>	W	X
Seven	Mar. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nature/ Place Attachment	<i>The Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>	Y	Z
			<i>Koyaanisqatsi</i>	AA	BB
Eight	Mar. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sacred Places/ Profane Spaces	<i>Baraka</i>	CC	DD
			<i>Falling Down</i>	EE	FF
Nine	March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Extreme Environments	<i>The Abyss</i>	GG	HH
			<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	II	JJ

FILM	RECOMMENDED READING
<i>The Nightmare Before Christmas</i>	Barker, R. (1968). Ch. 3: Behavior settings; Defining attributes and varying properties. <i>Ecological psychology: Concepts and methods for studying the environment of human behavior</i> . pp. 18-34.
<i>Blast from the Past</i>	Ittelson, W., Proshansky, H., Rivlin, L., & Winkel, G. (1974). Ch. 4: Man-environment transactions: Some guiding assumptions. P. 80-101.
<i>Kitchen Stories</i>	Zeisel, J. (1984). "Chapter 8: Observing Environmental Behavior" <i>Inquiry by design</i> . AND/OR Altman, I. & Rogoff, B. (1987). World views in psychology: Trait, organismic and transactional approaches. In D. Stokols & I. Altman (Eds). <i>The handbook of environmental psychology</i> . Vol. 1 pp. 1-40.
<i>Das Experiment</i>	Proshansky, H. (1990). The pursuit of understanding. In I. Altman & K. Christensen (Eds). <i>Environment &amp; behavior studies: Emergence of intellectual traditions</i> . Pp. 9-30. AND/OR Werner, C. Brown, B. & Altman, I. (2002). Transactionally oriented research: Examples and strategies. In R. Bechtel & I. Churchman (Eds). <i>The handbook of environmental psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> edition</i> . pp. 203-221.
<i>The Matrix</i>	Ittelson, W. H., 1973. Chapter 1. In W. H. Ittelson (Ed.), <i>Environment and Cognition</i> . pp. 1-19. AND/OR Carr, S. (1970). The city of the mind. In Proshansky et al. (Eds). <i>Environmental psychology: Man and his physical setting</i> . pp. 518-532.
<i>Cube</i>	Golledge, R. (1987). Environmental cognition. In D. Stokols & I. Altman (Eds). <i>The handbook of environmental psychology 1<sup>st</sup> ed.</i> Pp. 131-174. AND/OR Murakoshi, S. & Kawai, M. (2000). Use of knowledge and heuristics for wayfinding in an artificial environment. <i>Environment &amp; Behavior</i> 32 (6) November 2000 756-774
<i>Soylent Green</i>	McCallum, R., Rusbult, C. E., Hong, G., Walden, T. A., & Schopler, J. (1979). Effects of resource availability and importance of behavior on the experience of crowding. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> , 37, (pp. 1304-1313).
<i>The Omega Man</i>	Lyman, S. & Scott, M. (1968). Territoriality: A neglected sociological dimension. <i>Social Problems</i> 15 pp. 236-249.

FILM	RECOMMENDED READING
<i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i>	Twigger-Ross, C.L. & Uzzell, D. L. (1996). Place and identity processes. <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> (1996) 16, 205–220
<i>Life as a House</i>	Cooper, C. (1974). The house as a symbol of self. In J. Lang et al (Eds). <i>Designing for human behavior</i> . (pp. 130-146).
<i>Far from Heaven</i>	Franck, Karen, A., and Lynn Paxson, 1989 'Women and urban public space: Research, design, and policy issues' In I. Altman & E. Zube. (Eds.) <i>Public places and spaces</i> . AND/OR Frieden, B. (196 ). “The problem that has no name.” Chapter 1 of <i>The feminine mystique</i> .
<i>Amelie</i>	Day, K. (2000). The ethic of care and women’s experience of public space. <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> 20 (2), June 2000, pp. 103-124(22)
<i>Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>	Stedman, R. (2002). Towards a social psychology of place. <i>Environment &amp; Behavior</i> 34 (5), pp. 561-581.
<i>Koyaanisqatsi</i>	Metzner, R. (1993), The split between spirit and nature in European consciousness, <i>Trumpeter</i> 10 (1) Winter. Available: <a href="http://trumpeter.athabascau.ca/content/v10.1/Metzner.html">http://trumpeter.athabascau.ca/content/v10.1/Metzner.html</a>
<i>Baraka</i>	Mazumdar, S & Mazumdar, S. (2004). Religion and place attachment: A study of sacred places <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> 24 pp. 385–397
<i>Falling Down</i>	Eliade, M. (1959). The sacred & the profane: The nature of religion. See also: <i>The sacred &amp; the profane</i> (Summary) <a href="http://www.bytrent.demon.co.uk/eliadesp01.html">http://www.bytrent.demon.co.uk/eliadesp01.html</a>
<i>The Abyss</i>	Yan, X., England, M. (2001). Design evaluation of an arctic research station. <i>Environment &amp; Behavior</i> 33 (3) p. 449 AND/OR Suefeld, P/ (1987). Extreme and unusual environments. In D. Stokols & I. Altman (Eds). <i>The handbook of environmental psychology</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. pp. 863-887.
<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	Bechtel, R. (2002). On to Mars! In R. Bechtel & I. Churchman (Eds.) <i>The Handbook of Environmental Psychology</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition. AND/OR Sandal, G. (2001). Crew tension during space station simulation. <i>Environment &amp; Behavior</i> 33 (1) , pp. 134-150.

## **THE THEORY PAPER:**

The paper must be more than a written version of the presentation notes: it must be structured as a proper theory paper, with:

- introduction;
- a thesis regarding the theory(ies) as they relate to the film;
- an examination of the film through the lens of theory to support your proposed thesis;
- discussion;
- conclusion;
- bibliography formatted according to APA style.

**Required elements for both the presentation and the paper:**

### **Regarding the Film:**

- Introduction to the film
- Brief description of the film's plot & characters
- Outline of the physical settings portrayed
- Observations regarding the behaviour of the characters as it relates to theory

### **Regarding the Reading:**

- Principles of Environment & Behaviour Studies used to support your observations
- Author/researcher responsible for these ideas
- A brief outline of who this researcher/author is and what their article/book is about
- Sources used for your work

**Feel free to consult with the Instructor about your film/readings.**

## **PRESENTATION GRADING:**

Quality of content: 40%

Organization and delivery of presentation: 40%

Discussion potential: 20%

## **REPORT GRADING:**

- Quality of research/depth of analysis/ ability to integrate course theory (40%)
- Style and presentation, including correct spelling, grammar, punctuation and accurate bibliographic citation (20%).
- Quality of organization (20%)
- Extent to which submission meets the assignment's objectives (20%)