

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Department of **Human Environmental Studies**  
Course Title: **Environmental Design for Special  
Populations**

Course Number: **DS518**  
Revision of HI518: **Fall 2008**

**I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours**

A study of the principles and theories relative to the design of effective environments for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. **(3)**

**II. Prerequisite(s)**

**None.**

**III. Purposes or Objectives of Course**

- A. Describe the characteristics and special needs of children, elderly, and disabled individuals as they relate to the design of living environments.
- B. Evaluate specific designs for special populations.
- C. Analyze effects of given designs on behavior of special needs clients.
- D. Describe examples of current research and design for special populations.
- E. Develop a plan for a new environment for one of the groups previously listed; or complete a research study of an existing environment.

**IV. Expectations of Students**

- A. Actively participate in class discussions and field trips.
- B. Pass two written examinations.
- C. Successfully complete all assigned readings.
- D. Successfully complete critiques of given designs.
- E. Successfully complete one design project/research paper.

**V. Course Outline or Content**

**Hours**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>A. Human Needs and Design</b>              | <b>4</b> |
| 1. Physical needs                             |          |
| 2. Psychological needs                        |          |
| 3. Social needs                               |          |
| <b>B. Effects of Design on Human Behavior</b> | <b>3</b> |
| 1. Expectations                               |          |
| 2. Adaptations                                |          |
| 3. Stress                                     |          |
| <b>C. The Design Process</b>                  | <b>5</b> |
| 1. Research                                   |          |

2. Programming	
3. Review and evaluation	
<b>D. Environments for Children</b>	<b>10</b>
1. Children's special needs	
2. Designers and researchers	
3. Innovative designs	
a. Learning environments	
b. Play environments	
c. Home environments	
<b>E. Environments for the Disabled</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Types of disabilities	
2. Demographics	
3. Accessibility regulations	
a. Federal	
b. State	
c. Local	
4. Innovative designs	
a. Products	
b. Industry leaders	
c. Designers	
5. Adaptive designs	
<b>F. Environments for the Elderly</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Demographics	
2. Special needs of the elderly	
3. Sources of support	
a. Financial	
b. Physical	
c. Social, emotional	
4. Designers and researchers	
a. Lawton	
b. Howell	
c. Others	
5. Innovative designs	
a. United States	
b. International	
c. Institutional settings	
d. Non-institutional settings	
6. Adaptive Designs	
7. Application of Theories and Principles	
a. Development of designs	
b. Evaluation of designs	
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	<b>45</b>

## **VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment**

Kopec. (2006). Environmental Psychology for Design. New York: Fairchild Publications.

## VII. Basis for Student Evaluation

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| A. Class participation                    | 10% |
| B. Design project/research paper          | 50% |
| C. Design critiques and other assignments | 15% |
| D. Two written examinations               | 25% |

**Note:** The weight of the evaluation criteria may vary according to each instructor and will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

## VIII. Academic Policy Statement

Students will be expected to abide by the **University Policy for Academic Honesty** regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to:

<http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html>

## IX. Student with Disabilities Statement

If a student has a special need addressed by the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.