



Independent Study | in Idaho

FCS 428
Housing America's
Families

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Course Guide

Independent
Study | in **Idaho**

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Family and Consumer Sciences 428 Housing America's Families

University of Idaho
3 Semester-Hour Credits

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Welcome!

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, and information about lessons, exams, and grading.

Policies and Procedures

Important!

As you read this section, you will see the following icon:



Use this icon to direct yourself to essential ISI information. Students are responsible for following ISI's policies. Refer to ISI's website at www.uidaho.edu/isi, select *About ISI, Policies* for the most current policies, procedures and course information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

Course Description

Prerequisite: junior or senior standing or instructor permission.

Housing, furnishings, and equipment as they influence family well-being and families' housing choices as affected by social, psychological, economic, technological, and political factors. Four-five video field trips.

Required: Internet access, and access to a computer.

Recommended: Microsoft Office Word

12 graded assignments, and 2 proctored exams.

Available online only.

Course Materials

Required Course Materials

- Lewis, Evelyn L., and Carolyn S. Turner. *Housing and Interior Design*. 10th ed. Tinley Park: Goodheart and Willcox, 2012. ISBN 9781605253374
- Videos and site visits which are accessible through BbLearn.

Independent Study in Idaho course materials are available for purchase at the VandalStore (University of Idaho bookstore). Your *Registration Confirmation Email* contains the VandalStore's contact information.

Independent Study in Idaho courses are updated and revised periodically. Ordering course materials from the VandalStore at the time of registration allows you to purchase the correct edition(s) of textbooks, course guides, and supplemental materials. Contact the VandalStore directly for questions regarding course materials that you have ordered.

If purchasing textbooks from another source, refer to the ISBN(s) for the textbook(s) listed for this course to ensure that you obtain the correct edition(s).

Course Delivery

This course is available online. An electronic course guide is accessible through BbLearn at no additional cost. Refer to your *Registration Confirmation Email* for instructions on how to access BbLearn.

Course Introduction

This course is designed to provide you with knowledge of the basic issues and concepts in housing, furnishings, and equipment as they influence family wellbeing. This includes families' housing choices considering social, psychological, economic, technological, and political factors. To accomplish this you will complete assignments, view DVDs of site visits, review PowerPoint presentations with accompanying narrative, and complete extensive use of Internet sites including blogs, YouTube videos, and the like.

Course Objectives

1. Identify how housing values, needs, and lifestyles influence housing choices.
2. Develop an understanding of the role housing plays in quality of life and on the environment.
3. Describe the social, economic, environmental, technological, and government influences on housing.
4. Examine housing from a historical perspective.
5. Develop knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of living in many types of housing structures including the site built single family home, manufactured housing, condominiums, modular housing, and apartments.
6. Determine decision-making strategies for evaluating, financing, and purchasing a home.
7. Explore universal design in housing and how it can benefit at-risk populations, such as persons with a disability, and the elderly.
8. Evaluate and understand key principles of effective house and floor plans.
9. Describe the components and processes in basic home construction.
10. Explain what is involved in building a custom home, and the advantages and disadvantages of building a custom home.
11. Identify considerations when choosing home systems, and when evaluating the plumbing, electrical, and heating-cooling systems in an existing home.
12. Develop a familiarity with the design principles involved in creating interior backgrounds.
13. Identify the aesthetic and design characteristics of housing, furnishings and home equipment and their effect on consumer housing and furnishing decisions.
14. Identify new technologies and options in lighting, remodeling, traffic flow, materials, equipment, appliances, alternative energy sources, climate control, and plumbing.
15. Describe the maintenance and repair considerations when owning a home.
16. Review the considerations when remodeling a home.
17. Identify the issues to be considered when developing a plan for landscaping and exterior living spaces.

Lessons

Overview

This course is composed of 15 lessons. Each lesson includes outcomes, websites to visit, materials to study, PowerPoint slides and accompanying narrative, and generally an assignment. One lesson includes short video segments from a Home Time program video. You will also view presentations of three guest speakers on DVDs and seven site "visits" also on DVDs. The advantage of the DVD format is that you can see the videos in full size on your television rather than a small box on your computer screen.

There are twelve assignments, and all but the assignment on floor plans are fairly short (three of the lessons do not have assignments associated with them). The assignments are described in more detail in the corresponding lessons.

Study Hints:

- Keep a copy of every lesson submitted.
- Complete all reading assignments.
- Web pages and URL links in the World Wide Web are continuously changing. Contact your instructor if you find a broken Web page or URL.

Exams

- You must wait for grades and comments on lessons prior to taking subsequent exams.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to your *Registration Confirmation Email*.

Refer to *Grading* for specific information on lesson/exam points and percentages.

Proctor Selection/Scheduling Exams



Refer to the *ISI Policies and Procedures* for guidelines on how to choose a proctor and schedule exams. Complete the *Proctor Information Form* and send it to the ISI office at least two weeks prior to scheduling your first exam.

Grading

Your assignment grades will be based on the following considerations:

An "A" represents outstanding work that meets or exceeds what is required and includes critical thinking.

A "B" represents above average effort, and includes critical thinking.

A "C" indicates you minimally met the requirements of the assignment.

Less than a C or 70% means that required items were either missing or incomplete

Expectations for assignments: All assignments should be typed or word-processed, checked for spelling and grammar, and include any URLs needed. Then attach your assignment as a word document (or pdf file if you do not have Word) to submit for grading. Assignments that have three or more spelling/grammar errors will have 10% of the possible score deducted so do both spell-check and proofread your assignments before submitting them.

Possible Points

Written Assignment 1	10
Written Assignment 2	15
Written Assignment 3	15
Written Assignment 4	15
Written Assignment 5	45
Written Assignment 6	10
Written Assignment 7	20
Written Assignment 8	15
Written Assignment 9	15
Optional Extra Credit	10
Written Assignment 10	10
Written Assignment 11	15
Written Assignment 12	15
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50

Total Points

270-300 points=A

240-269 points =B

210-239 points =C

180-209 points =D

<180 points = F



Refer to the *ISI Policies and Procedures* for information about confidentiality of student grades, course completion, time considerations, and requesting a transcript.

About the Course Developer

I have enjoyed over 20 years of teaching this practical Housing class though its title has changed over time. I have also taught an online version for many years. Though we do not meet in person you can contact me by email or, if necessary, you may call my cell phone. If you do call, please be aware that I am located in the Mountain Time zone. I am here to answer your questions and help in any way I can so that you will be successful in the class.

Contacting Your Instructor



Instructor contact information is available in BbLearn.

Disability Support Services



Refer to the *ISI Policies and Procedures* for information on *Disability Support Services (DSS)*.

Assignment Submission Log				
Lesson	Written Assignment	Date Submitted	Grade Received	Cumulative Point Totals
1	WA 1: Housing and Human Needs			
2	WA 2: McConnell Mansion			
3	No written assignment			
4	WA 3: Construction of a Spec Built Home			
5	WA 4: Universal Design Home Tour			
6	WA 5: Evaluating Floor Plans			
7	WA 6: Acquiring Housing			
8	WA 7: Building a Home			
Exam 1				
9	No written assignment			
10	WA 8: Interior Decorating			
11	WA 9: HGTV			
12	Extra Credit: Lighting			
13	WA 10: Selecting Major Appliances			
14	WA 11: Maintenance, Repair and Remodeling			
15	WA 12: Landscaping			
Exam 2				

Lesson 1

Housing and Human Needs



Overview

Housing is our shelter and one of our essential needs for survival along with water, food, and clothing. Today, housing is so much more than just something to protect us. It is a place to express our personality, rest and relax, take care of and enjoy our family members, to get recharged, and for some it is a place to work. In this lesson we look at how our needs, values, preferred lifestyle, and the quality of life we want influence our housing choices.

Lesson Objectives

1. Assess how housing helps people meet their needs.
2. Analyze factors that affect housing choices, including values, space, costs, roles, and lifestyles.
3. Summarize how housing needs change over the life span.
4. Examine ways housing affects quality of life.
5. Summarize human ecology and the move toward green and sustainable design.

Required Website to Explore

The required website to visit is in conjunction with slide 5. Go to www.winchestermysteryhouse.com and see why hers is an individualistic lifestyle. It's a spooky house and a fun tour. Click on "Learn" to see why she chose this lifestyle and how the home came about.

Reading Assignment

Lewis and Turner Chapter 1, Housing and Human Needs, pages 20-45.

Introductory Lecture

PowerPoint:

After reading the text, have the PowerPoint presentation available while you review the narrative that follows.

Slides 1-2

Housing is our near environment. It's your home, the furnishings in your home, the neighborhood, and your immediate community. We all interact with our housing. It affects us and we affect it. This compares to your total environment which is the area outside your neighborhood and local community.

At the most basic level what do we need housing to provide for us? Does the climate you live in affect the housing you need? When pioneers explored the west their housing provided shelter. Did it always provide safety? How secure was it against threat of fire or attack? We'll talk more about these issues in the Historic Housing Lesson, which follows this one. As time has passed we now expect so much more from our housing than just shelter and safety. A house is a physical structure, but a home is so much more. What do you think of when you hear the word "home??" Where is it? Is it where you currently live, or where your parents or other family members live? What does it look like? Who's there? How do you feel there? When we have the necessary resources we can add an aesthetic component through the way we decorate our home.

Slide 3

Once we go beyond basic needs, housing decisions are more based on values – what is important to us. In what kind of housing do you picture yourself living in five years? Do you own or rent it? What is the structure type – a single family detached home, a duplex, a condominium building, a yacht, a recreational vehicle, or an apartment in a large apartment complex? Part of what you picture is based on what you value.

Slide 4

Some of you may be single, some married, and some of you may have children while others do not. Maybe you have a sibling or a parent or grandparent living with you. Over your lifetime as you go through various lifecycle stages, your needs for housing will evolve and change. For example, privacy might be an important issue in a blended family where stepsiblings may be sharing space. What would be the main issues in housing for a retired couple?

Slide 5

In addition to lifecycle stage, your housing choice is influenced by the lifestyle you want. Close your eyes and picture your ideal home. Did you ever look at a home and wonder why anyone would build such a house? In San Jose there is an attraction called the Winchester Mystery House. The heir to the Winchester Rifle fortune built the home. She worried that the ghosts of persons killed by the rifle were coming to get her so she has stairways that end in the ceiling and doorways that open into walls. The halls twist and turn this way and that. It's an interesting tour, and was built this way to "trick" the spirits so they wouldn't find her. An extreme example, yes, but someone with an individualistic lifestyle is not concerned with what others think.

Slide 6

If you saw the Harrison Ford movie "Witness" you have an idea of what a community lifestyle is about. Perhaps you have had the opportunity to visit such a community, such as the Pennsylvania Dutch country. I can highly recommend the experience. It is such a different way of life, with a focus on simplicity, caring for the land, and caring for one another. In contrast, someone desiring an influential lifestyle will want a home that impresses others, with room for guests and a private office. These homes often have such features as a large dining room, chandeliers, a home theater, a large dramatic entry, marble floors, vaulted ceilings, and a gated entry.

Slide 7

A very different view is taken by those who want a supportive lifestyle. They may live in a group home where they can assist those who need it. This is really what extended families used to be when many generations lived together and all had roles in the family. If a basic lifestyle appeals to you, simplicity and nurturing the environment will direct your decisions. You may want to use as little water and power as possible and do what you can to reduce pollution, erosion, and other impacts on the environment. While we do not cover this in class I do have a PowerPoint presentation on “Housing and the Environment” that I would be happy to send to you, upon your request.

Slide 8

The article from *Housing and Society* is the basis of the next 11 slides. The housing we live in affects the environment first by consuming natural resources, such as trees, for the building materials. Second, building a home affects the environment when dirt is excavated, when utility lines are put in, and if the home’s exterior does not blend with its surroundings. For example, in our hilly area, people are buying acreage and then building their home on top of a hill in order to get a view. What was once a beautiful view of rolling hills is now a view of hills each topped with a home, and some are of unusual architecture that does not blend well with the natural environment. As more homes are built and occupied, the environment is also affected by the increased demand on water tables, sewer systems, electricity and gas, and streets. Even the materials used to keep the home clean and such things as pesticides and fertilizers used impact the environment

Slides 9 - 13

These slides get you to think about some things you can do to support sustainable housing. It’s not just our country that needs to be involved but rather preserving the environment is a worldwide issue. See www.ceresnaturalfloors.com to view a sustainable flooring choice. Click on “Products” and “About CBC Flooring” and then “Eco Commitment”

Slides 14 – 17

The greatest amount of energy in a home is used for space heating and cooling, followed by water heating. We come back to this issue in the lesson on household equipment. Households also generate a lot of waste, and it ends up in landfills or is incinerated affecting water and air quality. Recently garden fertilizers and pesticides have been in the spotlight due to concern about their cumulative effect on the environment. Now that homes are built “tighter” with vapor locks and a lot of insulation and caulking to reduce air transfer, more people are aware of the environment *inside* our homes too. We need to be concerned about the air quality in our home, and in some areas check for radon gas.

Slides 18 – 19

It all boils down to what you want from your life. What actions are you willing to take to protect the environment? What is a high quality of life to one person may not be to another. Think of your priorities in life and that will direct your housing choices. Once you have thought that through you will be ready for the next lesson, which takes you on a site visit of a historic home, and to a time when values and priorities were different – or were they?

Written Assignment One

Go to <http://www.hgtvremodels.com/hgtvremodels-building-of-hgtv-green-home/videos/index.html?channel=59441&videoId=93646> to view the features of the HGTV 2012 green home that make it “green.” View the photo gallery and take some of the video tours. What do you like

most? What are some features you want in the future? How Green is "Green?" Note and describe the environmental considerations they applied as they designed and built this home and chose the building materials. What do you think of the "green" information and visuals at this site? [10 points]