

**For 305- Pulpcut – Chainsaw Safety and Use I**  
Syllabus - Fall 2021

**Instructors:**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Course Description:*

This is a one-credit, special topics course in chainsaw safety and handling. It is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. The purpose of the course is to teach basic chainsaw safety and handling procedures and provide the students the opportunity to have supervised experience in the operation of chainsaws.

To pass this course, the student must:

1. Participate the entire **two days** (dates for which the student is registered) in the supervised chainsaw handling component of the class. **Consult Canvas page for meeting location and times.**
2. Pass all exercises in Canvas: read the training material available on Canvas and pass the three associated quizzes (passing = 70%, open book, unlimited attempts) before the due dates.

Important Course Policies:

**You must complete the two exercises stated above or you will automatically fail this course and it will show up on your scholastic record (a grade of F will affect your grade point average).**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The university has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated, but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Office of Disability Services, 103 Student Services Center, voice (715) 346-3365 or TDD (715) 346-3362

Misc. Information :

This course does qualify for chainsaw safety training for the WI DNR as per the following DNR policy:

"7.1 OSHA Training Standards. DNR employees must be trained according to OSHA logging standards found in OSHA 1910.266(i). FISTA Chainsaw Training, Game of Logging, Lallemond Timber Resources, or NWCG S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws meet OSHA logging standards. Other courses may meet the OSHA logging standard. First Aid and CPR certifications must remain current 1910.226 Appendix B. Additional training may be required for high hazardous conditions."

You need to provide your own lunch and **non-alcoholic** beverage, unless alternative plans are communicated by the instructor on the Canvas page.

Work clothes and good sturdy footwear are needed (we provide "Sawjammer" booties to cover your shoes or boots). If you arrive in sandals and shorts (or similarly inappropriate clothing), you will be sent home for safety reasons and as a result you will not be able to participate in the class that day (see point [2.] above).

Dress for the weather, including rain/snow if it is forecasted. The class will go unless extreme weather prevents us from safely completing the field activities.

Safety equipment, vision and hearing protection will be provided.

Work gloves are highly recommended for handling saws and logs (cheap \$1.50 leather palm gloves are adequate, fuzzy [slippery] yellow gloves do not work well!).

Smoking/vaping will NOT be permitted in field sites. Consult with the instructor ahead of time to determine designated locations for smoking/vaping.

#### **COVID -19 Adjustments**

- All students need to wear a mask, covering mouth and nose, while in University buildings
- If you are feeling ill do not come to class. Students quarantined or isolated because of COVID have the responsibility to notify DATC and instructors. However, instructors will receive confirmation from DATC's standard *Faculty Notification Letter* (FNL). Students are also copied on those emails. Dean of Students Office made that responsibility determination.  
<https://www.uwsp.edu/datc/pages/covid-specific-accommodation-request.aspx>), call 715/346-3365, or email [datc@uwsp.edu](mailto:datc@uwsp.edu) .

**Learning Objectives:**

Learning Objective	Tasks	Assessment
Describe the function of the chainsaw power unit, cutting attachments and safety equipment.	1. Chain saw – power unit (clean, runs properly, no parts missing, chain break and other safety equipment works)	Student completes a “walk through” discussing the power unit, cutting attachments, fueling/oiling and safety equipment with the supervisor prior to starting the saw.
	2. Chain saw – cutting attachment (clean, cutters sharp, depth gauges set, proper chain tension, proper lubrication)	
	3. Safety equipment – used properly (chaps, hard hat, safety shoes, hearing protection, eye protection, gloves, others)	
	4. Properly fueled saw (gas/oil mix, proper bar oil, fuel in proper area)	
Demonstrate safe use of the chainsaw	5. Starting procedures (on the ground, locked between legs)	Student discusses the starting procedure for the saw prior to starting the saw. After supervisor approval, the student starts the saw using ground start technique. Student will use leg-lock technique on second day of field session.
	6. Stance and handling (firm footing, feet spread apart, firm grip, no crossed hands)	Supervisor monitors and immediately approves/corrects footing and grip (etc.) while the student is actively cutting.
	7. Mock Felling (check for widow-makers, size up, escape routes, clear brush, proper notch, use wedge, proper holding wood, move away properly).	Prior to the saw touching the wood, the student will discuss what they plan to do with the tree. This will include: where the notch will be placed, what the escape routes will be, what obstacles need to be cleared (brush etc.), appropriate hinge wood thickness, what hazards are apparent (dead tops, branches etc.). Student will complete this step prior to EVERY tree cut. The supervisor will approve/correct the felling plan. The notch will be cut. The saw will be stopped, the notch will be approved or corrected. The back cut will be made. The tree will fall or be pushed with a push pole. After the tree falls (and the area is determined to be clear of hazards), the supervisor will critique the fall. Was the hinge appropriate? Was the notch adequate? Was the backcut adequate? Did any problems materialize that were unexpected?
	8. Limbing, brushing, slashing (overhead hazard, avoid bind and pinching, not cutting with tip, did not cross saw in front of legs, release spring poles properly, proper position, saw not used above head)	The student will discuss the following factors with the supervisor: the tension in the log, the tension in branches, the presence of any spring poles, and any apparent hazards. The supervisor will monitor for any issues inappropriate response to tension or compression in the branches/bole of the tree.
	9. Bucking (overhead hazards, stands on uphill side of log, watch the kerf, uses wedges, determines bind, releases bind properly)	