

NR 374/482 Practicum in Environmental Interpretation & Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (Schmeeckle Reserve)

Syllabus – Fall 2022

Course Schedule

Orientation: Tuesday, September 6, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Regular Meetings: Mondays from 2:00-5:00pm at Schmeeckle Visitor Center

To Be Scheduled: Evening and weekend public programs and two-hours per week of on-site Schmeeckle “Office Hours”

Additional Sessions: Monday, October 10, 8:00-11:00am, Wednesday, October 26, all day, and Friday, October 28, all day

Wrap Up/Debrief: Friday, December 16, 10:15-12:15

Instructors

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TNR 182

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Office Hours (TRN 182)

Tuesdays 9:00 – 10:00 | Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 | Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 | Or by appointment

Course Description

Plan, present, and evaluate interpretive programs, and further your skills creating interpretive media. This capstone course allows you to demonstrate proficiency in skills and knowledge gained in previous environmental education and interpretation courses.

Textbooks

Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The Interpreter's Guidebook: Techniques for Programs and Presentations*, 4th ed. Stevens Point, WI: UW-SP Foundation.

NRES 369 Interpretive Media Lab tutorials binder.

Couse Learning Outcomes (LO)

LO #1: Knowledge of Self

Demonstrate a strong awareness of self, including personality, knowledge, strengths, and weaknesses, and work to develop these skills:

- Be creative and open to trying something new
- Adapt to various situations with flexibility, problem-solving, and creativity
- Demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal growth
- Prioritize tasks through organizational skills and personal responsibility
- Admit when you don't know something and be willing to find the answer
- Exhibit commitment through enthusiasm and passion for Schmeeckle's mission and values
- Demonstrate professionalism in appearance, attendance, demeanor, and representation of Schmeeckle Reserve
- Accept constructive feedback and guidance

LO #2: Knowledge of Site and Visitor

- Develop interpretive programs and media that relate to Schmeeckle Reserve's mission and are relevant to central Wisconsin natural and cultural history.
- Increase your personal connection to Schmeeckle Reserve and integrate that passion into your interpretive efforts to relate to your audience.
- Develop interpretive programs and media that target audiences typical to Schmeeckle Reserve, including a variety of ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

LO #3: Program Development

- Conduct research, develop a theme and sub-themes, incorporate a variety of creative techniques, and present professional-level interpretive programs for a variety of audiences.

LO #4: Interpretive Media

- Create, write, and design non-personal professional interpretive media for program marketing and interpretation.

LO #5: Evaluation

- Evaluate your peers' interpretive programs and media and critique your own work for effectiveness and quality.

Student Learning Outcomes adapted from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Interpretation Standards Project, 2018

Evaluation/Course Requirements

Brief descriptions of each assignment are below. See Canvas assignments for detailed instructions, grading criteria, deadlines, and submission locations. Usually, assignments are due each week by Friday at 5:00 pm, with a 24-hour grace period, then -10%/day late.

Getting Started

These assignments help the instructors get to know you and help us all get organized for the semester.

1. **Introduce Yourself:** Write a concise essay, following [MLA](#) style, to introduce yourself, your interests, your goals for Practicum, any special needs, and natural and/or cultural history topics that you would be interested in developing into interpretive presentations and/or media this semester. (10 points)
2. **Calendaring:** Propose schedule for your two public programs, sign up for participating and debriefing at least 5 of your peers' public programs, and schedule your weekly Schmeckle "office" hours. Bring your calendar to class. (10 points)
3. **Coaching Sessions I & II:** Sign up, prepare for, and actively participate in two one-on-one meetings with Chris. Meetings can occur at her office or at Schmeckle. Attend prepared to share updates on project progress and bring questions and concerns for guidance. Communicate if running late or if you need to reschedule. (25 points each; 50 points total)
4. **NAI/NAAEE Standards Self-Assessment:** Submit your updated NAI and NAAEE Standards Self-Assessment that you completed in NRES 483. (10 points)

Project 1: Fall Program Brochure

Work with your practicum team to develop and distribute a fall program marketing brochure with copyright-free images that will be distributed to the Schmeckle Reserve mailing list. The brochure will advertise your public programs, with a date, time, meeting location, concise interpretive description, and the presenter's name. It will also provide instructions for how to register, walk-on policy, bad-weather policy, and arranging for special accommodations.

5. **Draft Brochure Copy & Media:** Draft a title, concise description, picture, and icon for your two public programs. (10 points)
6. **Final Brochure Copy & Media:** Review feedback on draft and revise your program copy and media. (25 points)

Project 2: Two Public Programs

A major part of practicum is applying what you learned in NRES 368 Oral Interpretation to plan and prepare two engaging public interpretive programs on the natural or cultural history of Central Wisconsin and Schmeckle Preserve. To support your professional learning and growth, at least one of your programs should be outdoors, you should select topics that you have not presented for classes in the past and avoid dependence on digital media like PowerPoint. All outdoor programs should have an indoor bad weather back up plan or rain date. As a practicum team, we will brainstorm target audiences (adults, children, families, groups, retired, etc.), settings (fireside, trails, meeting room, Lake Joanis, off-campus, etc.), and creative interpretive techniques (props/visual aids, humor, dialogue, storytelling, demonstrations, costumed, live animal, music, puppet shows, etc.). The instructor team will select the final topics and structure. Practicum students will complete the following assignments to prepare and practice:

7. **Draft Program Plan:** Prepare a draft of your Theme Planning Worksheet (*Interpretive Guidebook*, p. 67) and Program Development Worksheet (*Interpretive Guidebook*, p. 133) for each of your two public programs. (10 points each; 20 points total)
8. **Final Program Plan:** Revise your theme planning and program development worksheets based on your continued reflection and instructor feedback for both of your programs. These are due by Friday at 5pm the week prior to your dress rehearsals. (25 points each; 50 points total)
9. **Dress Rehearsals:** Presented your public programs at least 1 week prior to when they are scheduled during Monday's class time. Each program will be presented in its entirety (including props, costumes, demonstrations, media for the program, etc.) to your peers. Failure to be prepared for the dress rehearsal may result in cancelation of your dress rehearsal and subsequent public presentation with no opportunity to make up those points. (25 points each; 50 points total)
Review Projects: Assigned as needed to clarify and strengthen your public program planning. (Pass or Re-Do-Until-Pass)
10. **Two Public Programs:** Present each of your public programs as scheduled, following "best practices" for application of interpretive principles, program organization, use of interpretive techniques, authentic audience engagement, preparation, effort, and professionalism. (90 points each; 180 points total)

Project 3: Candlelight Hike Character Program

The group will work together to develop an overall theme and sub-themes for a multi-station hike. Individuals will create and script develop thematic characters, write a script, and create costumes for a character program based on a central theme.

11. **Draft Plan (Group):** The group will work together to adapt and complete a Plan for the Candlelight Hike Character Program. Some planning time will be available during our Monday meeting sessions. (10 points)
12. **Draft Character Program Plan (Individual):** Prepare a Draft Character Program Plan that describes your preparation and planning for your character for the Candlelight Hike Character Program. (10 points)
13. **Final Plan (Group):** Revise the group's Draft Plan based on your continued reflection and instructor feedback. Due by Friday at 5pm the week prior to the Candlelight Hike dress rehearsal. Some planning time will be provided during our Monday sessions to work together on this. (25 points)
14. **Final Character Program Plan (Individuals):** Revise Character Program Plan based on your continued reflection and instructor feedback. Due by Friday at 5pm the week prior to the Candlelight Hike dress rehearsal. (25 points)
15. **Preparation & Dress Rehearsal:** Prepare and present the full Character program in its entirety (including props, costumes, etc.) to your peers. The class will provide feedback to help you make final adjustments. (25 points)
16. **Candlelight Character Program:** Present the character program twice during the Schmeeckle Candlelight Hike. Apply knowledge and skills from NRES 368 Oral Interpretation, including application of interpretive principles, program organization, character program creative techniques, provocation, preparation, effort, and professionalism. (90 points)

Project 4: Facebook Posts

Create three Facebook posts to market your three of your programs (pick from your public programs, nature notes video, and Candlelight Hike Character Program. Posts should be visual, concise, and interpretive (including meaning/intangibles and provocation/thinking/action).

17. **Facebook Posts:** Submit three interpretive Facebook posts to Canvas to generate interest and engagement in your program and program topic. (10 points each; 30 points total)

Project 5: Nature Note Video

Create a short (< 5 minute) interpretive talk video that will be posted on the Schmeeckle YouTube Channel, Website, and Facebook page. Students in NRES 374 may select either the Nature Note Video or the Interpretive Media project.

18. **Nature Notes Video Draft Plan:** Submit a draft Plan for a short (<5 minutes) interpretive program video that will be posted on the Schmeeckle YouTube channel, Website, and Facebook Page. (20 points)
19. **Draft Nature Notes Video:** Create a first draft of your video, incorporating changes based on feedback to your draft plan. (25 points)
20. **Final Nature Notes Video:** The final video is revised based on feedback and applies interpretive media best practices learned in NRES 369 Interpretive Media. (50 points)

Project 6: Interpretive Media

Propose, plan, and create an interpretive media project. Students in NRES 374 may select either the Nature Note Video or the Interpretive Media project.

21. **Media Project Proposal:** Submit your ideas and project schedule for a significant yet feasible media project (brochure, sign, exhibit, digital resource, teaching prop, etc.). (20 points)
22. **Draft Media Design:** Submit a draft of the media project design for feedback. (30 points)
23. **Final Media Design:** Revises media based on feedback. Demonstrates application of interpretive principles, organization, media best practices, preparation, effort, and professionalism. (100 points)

Project 7: Peer and Self-Evaluation

Participate in program debriefs and provide quality feedback for peers and yourself, with the goal of developing as a reflective practitioner and supportive coach. Instructor will specify format (verbal, rubric, written, Canvas discussion post, other).

24. **Dress Rehearsals Peer Feedback:** Fully participate and provide quality peer feedback and coaching for public program and candlelight hike dress rehearsals. (30 points)
25. **Public Programs Peer Feedback:** Sign up for, and fully participate in, at least five of your classmates' public programs and stay after for a group debrief and peer feedback. (25 points)
26. **Nature Notes Peer Feedback:** Watch and provide feedback for four of your classmate's draft Nature Note videos. (5 points each; 20 points total)

27. **Media Project Peer Feedback:** Provide peer feedback on four of your classmate’s draft media designs. (5 points each; 20 points total)
28. **Self-Evaluation of Public Programs:** For each of your public programs, reflect on what you did well and should continue doing (aka “praises”), and what you could try or do better next time (aka “polishes”). You should explicitly address items from the rubric. (10 points each; 20 points total)
29. **Self-Evaluation of Nature Notes Video:** Reflect on what you did well and should continue doing (aka “praises”), and what you could try or do better next time (aka “polishes”). You should explicitly address items from the rubric. (10 points)
30. **Self-Evaluation of Interpretive Media Project:** Reflect on what you did well and should continue doing (aka “praises”), and what you could try or do better next time (aka “polishes”). You should explicitly address items from the rubric. (10 points)

Grading Scale

94 – 100% = A	74 – 76% = C	84 – 86% = B	64 – 66% = D	Your final grade for NRES 482 will be an average of your final grade on the two practicum components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% CWES teaching responsibilities and assignments (see CWES syllabus) • 50% Schmeeckle interpretive programs and projects
90 – 93% = A-	70 – 73% = C-	80 – 83% = B-	60 – 63% = D-	
87 – 89% = B+	67 – 69% = D+	77 – 79% = C+	< 60% = F	

Policies and Expectations

- **Ambassadors of Schmeeckle:** During the Schmeeckle practicum, you are ambassadors of the nature reserve. We have high expectations for your professionalism in how you represent Schmeeckle and the University to the public.
- **Professionalism:** Practicum expectations are aligned with professional employment expectations because I want to support your development of “soft skills” as well as “hard skills” needed for natural resource careers. Employers expect their employees to show up, be prepared, do their work well, and communicate in an honest and timely manner if something comes up. So that is the expectation for practicum. The [UWSP CNR Principles of Professionalism](#) provides more guidance.
- **Attendance and Participation:** It is expected that practicum students will attend and fully participate in all Monday sessions, Schmeeckle “onsite office hours,” and all programs that you have signed up to lead or evaluate. Excessive unexcused absences can negatively affect your final grade.
- **Sick:** If you are sick, please do not come to class. Instead, the first day of class you will be assigned an official partner, and you will exchange contact information in case one of you is sick and cannot attend in person. Your partner is responsible for taking and emailing notes for you or hosting you on Zoom/Facetime.
- **Make Ups:** For most assignments in this class, there is a 24-hour grace period on deadlines. After that, late work is deducted -10% per day late and not accepted after 10 days. *Start assignments well ahead of deadlines and excused absences to lessen stress and late work.* I allow rare exceptions to these policies for official excused absences or extenuating circumstances in alignment with common professional workplace practice and university policy; in most cases you should communicate with me least a day in advance of the due date.
- **Preparation:** Complete adequate out-of-class-time preparation for dress rehearsals and public programs; failure to demonstrate acceptable preparation for dress rehearsals can result in cancellation of your dress rehearsal and public program with no opportunity to make it up or earn those points.
- **For reasonable accommodations and access,** please inform the instructor ahead of time and contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) 715-346-3365 or datctr@uwsp.edu to complete an Accommodations Request form.
- **Health Policy:** We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the [UWSP’s website related to COVID](#). The [CDC website](#) provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.
- **Add-Drop Policies:** The last day to add or drop a 16-week course without a grade is September 15, 2022. The last day to drop a 16-week course with transcript entry is November 11, 2022. [Click here for UWSP Academic Calendar.](#)
- **Additional course policies and list of student resources are detailed in Canvas.**
- **Communicating with Your Professor:** I *like* helping students learn, so feel free to ask questions. I prefer face-to-face communication for complex questions and am available after our Monday meeting or during scheduled drop-in office hours (Tu 9-10; W/F 10-11). You can also schedule an appointment for phone or zoom by contacting me at least a day in advance. I will not be in my scheduled office hours during holidays, finals week, or during the NAI National Conference November 29-December 3. You can also email cmccart@uwsp.edu with specific questions, please make a reasonable attempt to check the syllabus or Canvas for answers first. To model good work-life balance, I rarely email students outside of normal business hours.

- **CNR Student Success Center** (TNR 122) has professional advisers and peer mentors for College of Natural Resource (CNR) students. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Through your studies as a student, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. Students suspected of academic misconduct will be asked to meet with the instructor to discuss the concerns. If academic misconduct is evident, procedures for determining disciplinary sanctions will be followed as outlined in the [University System Administrative Code, Chapter 14](#).

Tentative Course Schedule: Schmeeckle Practicum Fall 2022

Week	Dates	Tentative Topics	Assignments (Due Dates): See detailed instructions in Canvas
1	Tues., Sept. 6, 9:00-12:00	Orientation to Schmeeckle Practicum Introductions & Goal Setting Program Brainstorming	<input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus (in class) <input type="checkbox"/> Bring Textbooks & pen/pencil (in class) <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce Yourself (Fri., Sept. 9 by 5:00 pm)
2	Mon., Sept. 12, 2:00-5:00	Schmeeckle Orientation & Tour 7 Steps to Developing a Program Program Planning Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Calendaring Part I: Bring CWES & personal calendar (Mon., Sept. 12 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline to schedule first Coaching Session (Fri., Sept. 16 by 5:00 pm)
3	Mon., Sept. 19, 2:00-5:00	Calendaring Themes & Subthemes Workshopping Researching Your Topics Brochure Workshopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Calendaring Part II: Bring CWES & personal calendar (Mon., Sept. 19 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Brochure Copy & Media (Fri., Sept. 23 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Program Plan for first public program (Fri. Sept. 23 by 5 pm)
4	Mon., Sept. 26, 2:00-5:00	Finalize Fall Calendar Feedback on Brochures & Program Plans Brochure & Program Planning Facebook & Interpretive Posts	<input type="checkbox"/> NAI & NAAEE Standards Self-Assessment (Fri., Sept. 30 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Final Brochure Copy & Media (Friday, Sept. 30 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Program Plan for second public program (Fri., Sept. 30 by 5:00 pm)
5	Mon., Oct. 3, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Evaluations (Coaching & Feedback)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Oct. 3 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook Post #1 (Friday, Oct. 7 by 5:00 pm)
6	Mon., Oct. 10, 8:00-11:00 & 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Candlelight Hike Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Programs Begin <input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Oct. 10 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Character Program Draft Plan (Group) (Friday, Oct. 14 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Draft Character Plan (Individual or Team) (Fri., Oct. 14 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook Post for Candlelight Hike (Friday, Oct. 14 by 5:00 pm)
7	Monday, Oct. 17, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Candlelight Hike Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Oct. 17 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Final Plan (Group) (Fri. Oct. 21 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Final Program Plan (Fri. Oct. 21 by 5:00pm)
8	Mon., Oct. 24, 2:00-5:00	Candlelight Hike Dress rehearsal	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Oct. 24, 5:00 pm)
	Wed., Oct. 26, All day	Candlelight Hike Preparations	<input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Preparation and Dress Rehearsal (Wed. Oct. 26)
	Fri., Oct. 28, All day	Candlelight Hike Preparations Candlelight Hike Festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike Preparation (Fri., Oct. 28) <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight Hike (Fri., Oct. 28) <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook Post for Public Program #2 (Friday, Oct. 28 by 5:00 pm)
9	Mon., Oct. 31, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Intro Media Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Oct. 31 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline to schedule second Coaching Session (Fri. Nov. 4 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline to submit First Public Program Self-Evaluation (Fri. Nov. 4 by 5:00 pm)
10	Mon., Nov. 7, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Intro Nature Notes Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Nov. 7, 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Notes Video Draft Plan (Fri., Nov. 11, 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Media Project Proposal (Fri., Nov. 11, 5:00 pm)
11	Mon., Nov. 14, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Media Workshopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Nov. 14, 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Nature Notes Video (Fri., Nov. 18, 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Media Design (Fri., Nov. 18, 5:00 pm)
12	Mon., Nov. 21, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Media Workshopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Program Dress Rehearsal Peer Feedback (Mon., Nov. 21, 5:00 pm)
13	Mon., Nov. 28, 2:00-5:00	Media Workshopping NAI Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Notes Peer Feedback (Fri., Dec. 2 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive Media Project Peer Feedback (Fri., Dec. 2 by 5:00 pm)
14	Monday, Dec. 5, 2:00-5:00	Dress Rehearsals (see calendar) Media Workshopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Nature Notes Video (Fri., Dec. 9 by 5:00 pm)
15	Mon., Dec. 12, 2:00-5:00	Advice Video for Spring 2023 Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Advice Video (Fri., Dec. 16, by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Final Interpretive Media Design (Fri., Dec. 16 by 5:00 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline to submit Second Public Program Self-Evaluation (Fri., Dec. 16 by 5:00 pm)
	Fri., Dec. 16, 10:15-12:15	Wrap Up, Final Debrief, and Celebration	
--	Due prior to dress rehearsals		<input type="checkbox"/> Final Program Plans (due Fri. at 5:00 pm 1-2 weeks prior to dress rehearsal; see calendar) <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Schmeeckle Planning/Office Hours (see calendar)