

Natural Resources 390/590
Nature Interpretation in Wisconsin: Connecting People and Place
Spring 2024

Course instructors

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Course information

The one-credit course will meet in TNR 254, using it as a base for this mostly outdoors course. The class meets from 8am-5pm on Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14, 2024. Students will be responsible for additional course work outside of the scheduled classroom hours. Students should be prepared to spend time outdoors.

Course description

How to interpret major ecological communities of Wisconsin, their relationship to landforms and climate, key plants and animals, their interrelationship and the effect of human activities.

Instructional methods

This class is taught using a variety of instructional methods including discussions, outdoor experiences, student presentations, and guest speakers. Canvas will be used for course content.

Learning outcomes

As a result of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe place and place-based education.
- Defend and justify the need to include local, place-based knowledge in natural resources.
- Identify key characteristics of their place, including informal and formal rules as well as needs/wants/habits, and resources that influence actions.

Learning assessments*

Your place video	10 points
Reading discussion post	5 points
Active and engaged participation	40 points
Connecting people and place assignment	
Draft	15 points
Final	30 points
Total	100 points

*Assignments for students enrolled in NRES 590 will be crafted for and evaluated at the graduate level.

All submissions should be typed and posted in Canvas by 11:59pm on the identified due date, unless otherwise noted. Professionally presented papers are clear and cohesive, have been checked for spelling and grammatical errors, and are submitted by the deadline to earn full credit.

Grading scale

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
93+	A	74-76	C
90-92	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	63-66	D
80-83	B-	<63	F
77-79	C+		

Course resources

All course resources are available in Canvas or distributed during class meetings.

Course policies

You are expected to attend the full class meetings. Active participation in discussions and activities will enhance your own learning experience and that of your classmates. You should arrive on time, mentally and physically prepared to learn, having completed all readings and assignments. Texting, emailing, and engaging in other distracting behaviors during class is not allowed.

COVID-19 and other precautions

We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19 and other health-related issues. Please reference the [CDC website](#) which provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, I will announce policy changes that affect you in this class.

Care Team

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is committed to the safety and success of all students. The Office of the Dean of Students supports the campus community by reaching out and providing resources in areas where a student may be struggling or experiencing barriers to their success. Faculty and staff are asked to be proactive, supportive, and involved in facilitating the success of our students through early detection, reporting, and intervention. As your instructor, I may contact the Office of the Dean of Students if I sense you are in need of additional support which I may not be able to provide. You may also share a concern if you or another member of our campus community needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior that is interfering with the academic or personal success or the safety of others, by reporting here: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.

Title IX

UW-Stevens Point is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and institutional policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the event that you choose to disclose information about having survived sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, and specify that this violence occurred while a student at UWSP, federal and state laws mandate that I, as your instructor, notify the Title IX Coordinator/Office of the Dean of Students.

Please see the information on the Dean of Students webpage for information on making confidential reports of misconduct or interpersonal violence, as well as campus and community resources available to students. Dean of Students: <https://www.uwsp.edu/DOS/sexualassault> Title IX page: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/titleIX/Pages/default.aspx>

Disability and Accommodations

In accordance with federal law and UW System policies, UWSP strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you need accommodations for a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please visit with the [Disability Resource Center](#) to determine reasonable accommodations and notify faculty. After notification, please discuss your accommodations with me so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **DRC contact info:** Disability.Resource.Center@uwsp.edu ; 715/346-3365; 108 Collins Classroom Center

FERPA

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) provides students with a right to protect, review, and correct their student records. Staff of the university with a clear *educational need to know* may also have to access to certain student records. Exceptions to the law include parental notification in cases of alcohol or drug use, and in case of a health or safety concern. FERPA also permits a school to disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without consent, to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Academic Integrity

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. Keep in mind that submitting work that was generated by AI such as ChatGPT is considered academic misconduct unless you have been given permission to use such a tool and acknowledge it in your assignment. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. For more information on UWS chapter 14 visit: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Reporting Incidents of Bias/Hate

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.

You may also contact the Office of the Dean of Students directly at dos@uwsp.edu. Diversity and College Access is available for resources and support of all students:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dca/Pages/default.aspx>.

Clery Act

The US Department of Education requires universities to disclose and publish campus crime statistics, security information, and fire safety information annually. Statistics for the three previous calendar years and policy statements are released on or before October 1st in our [Annual Security Report](#). Another requirement of the Clery Act is that the campus community must be given timely warnings of ongoing safety threats and immediate/emergency notifications. For more information about when and how these notices will be sent out, please see our [Jeanne Clery Act](#) page.

The **Drug Free Schools and Communities Act** (DFSCA) requires institutions of higher education to establish policies that address unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs. The DFSCA also requires the establishment of a drug and alcohol prevention program. The Center for Prevention lists information about alcohol and drugs, their effects, and the legal consequences if found in possession of these substances. [Center for Prevention – DFSCA](#)

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act. Each year students violate these laws and campus policies, putting themselves at risk of federal prosecution. For more information about what to expect if you are caught, or to take preventive measures to keep your computing device clean, visit our [copyright page](#).

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources-Principles of Professionalism

The College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point prepares students for success as professionals in many fields. As a professional, there are expectations of attainment of several personal characteristics. These include:

Integrity

Integrity refers to adherence to consistent moral and ethical principles. A person with integrity is honest and treats others fairly.

Collegiality

Collegiality is a cooperative relationship. By being collegial you are respecting our shared commitment to student education through cooperative interaction. This applies to all involved in the process: students, staff, faculty, administration and involved community members. You take collective responsibility for the work performed together, helping the group attain its goals.

Civility

Civility refers to politeness and courtesy in your interactions with others. Being civil requires that you consider the thoughts and conclusions of others and engage in thoughtful, constructive discussion to express your own thoughts and opinions.

Inclusivity

Inclusivity requires you to be aware that perspective and culture will control how communication is understood by others. While many values are shared, some are quite different. These differences in values should be both considered and respected.

Timeliness

Timeliness is the habit of performance of tasks and activities, planned in a way that allows you to meet deadlines. This increases workplace efficiency and demonstrates respect for others' time.

Respect for Property

Respect for property is the appreciation of the economic or personal value an item maintains. Maintaining this respect can both reduce costs (increase the operable life of supplies and equipment) as well as demonstrate respect for others' rights.

Communication

Professional norms in communication require that you demonstrate the value of your colleagues, students, professors or others. The use of appropriate tone and vocabulary is expected across all forms of communication, whether that communication takes place face to face, in writing or electronically.

Commitment to Quality

Quality is the ability to meet or exceed expectations. By having a commitment to quality, we intend to provide a learning environment that is conducive to learning. Intrinsic to this commitment to quality is defining expectation (committed to in a syllabus through learning outcomes), implementation (with quality control in place) and assessment (where meeting of learning outcomes is determined).

Commitment to Learning

Learning is a lifelong process. By being committed to learning you are providing a model for all to follow. This model is not only professor to student but involves all combinations of people within our university and broader community

Online Academic Etiquette

We like to make some suggestions for good "digital citizenship" moving forward. First, please be aware that lectures (including your verbal questions, chats, etc.) are being recorded. If you don't want your video feed or image captured in a recording, then it is totally acceptable to keep your video feed "off". Verbal questions end up in a transcript. Chat-based statements also are recorded. Both will have your name associated with them and are part of the recorded lecture. This isn't that different from when you raise your hand to ask a question in class EXCEPT that there is now a recording associated with it. So, please take extra care to ask questions, answer questions, and use chats in a respectful way. Additionally, please keep in mind that your instructor's lectures are their intellectual property. In order to maintain a safe learning environment for everyone (so that students can ask questions freely and so that faculty can deliver material freely) , it is critical that you DO NOT share Zoom links/passwords to lectures/discussion meetings OR Zoom recordings of the class with anyone outside of our class. Misuse of chats, sharing these links/passwords, or recordings will be considered a disruption of the classroom as a learning environment. Disruptions (even digital ones) could impact your grade in a negative way.

Adherence to this compact is required of the faculty and staff of the College of Natural Resources and of all students enrolled in College of Natural Resources courses.