

NRES 791
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH
FALL SEMESTER 2023, 1 CREDIT

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<i>Office Hours:</i>	By appointment	Wed. 11-12; Fri. 10-11

Lectures: Fridays 9:00 - 9:50 (TNR 320)

Objectives:

1) be able to write an appropriate research hypothesis; 2) demonstrate the ability to write clearly and concisely in a style that is appropriate for your discipline, 3) be able to produce written and verbal evaluations & summaries of articles from the primary literature; 4) demonstrate the ability to apply principles of experimental design, and 5) understand the various roles of statistics in research, assumptions of parametric tests, differences among various categories of statistics, and the factors that determine the choice of a statistical method.

Textbooks:

- “How to Do Ecology” by R. Karban and M. Huntzinger, 2006.
Available as an ebook at:
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwsp/detail.action?docID=1603119>
Also posted on our Canvas page below.
- “A Primer on Natural Resource Science” by Fred Guthery, 2008. [ProQuest Ebook Central - Book Details](#) Also posted on our Canvas page below.
- “Research Design- Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches” by John W. Creswell, 2022.

CANVAS: [Introduction to Research \(instructure.com\)](#)

Grading: Assignments will not be accepted if they are turned in after the due date, other than for extenuating circumstances such as a family or health emergencies. Final grades for the course will be awarded using the following minimum values:

A = 93%; A- = 90%; B+ = 87%; B = 83%; B- = 80%; C+ = 77%; C = 73%; C- = 70%; D+ = 67%; D = 60%; F = <60%.

The final class grade will be based on the following:

50 points *In-class participation*
100 points *Pre-proposal assignment*
100 points *Abstract assignment*
100 points *Literature Review*
100 points *Methods Assignment*
50 points *Paper Review Assignment*

Specific details for completing individual assignments will be provided in class.

SCHEDULE*

Date	Topic with Required Readings and Assignment Due Dates
Sep 8	Course introduction & research process (Rader)
Sep 15	Research compliance and ethics (Isermann)
Sep 22	Framing a research proposal, writing objectives (Rader)
Sep 29	Abstracts and executive summaries (Isermann)
Oct 6	Introduction section and literature review (Rader)
Oct 13	Methods and Results sections (Rader)
Oct 20	Discussion section (Isermann)
Oct 27	Study design- natural science (Isermann)
Nov 3	Study design- social science (Rader)
Nov 10	Qualitative research (Rader)
Nov 17	Publishing your research (Rader)
Nov 24	NO CLASS THIS WEEK – work on your proposals – HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Dec 1	Peer review process and strategies (Isermann)
Dec 8	Responding to peer reviews (Isermann)
Dec 15	NO CLASS- Turn in paper reviews
Dec 18-22	Finals week- NO FINAL EXAM

***Schedule is tentative and subject to change if needed.**

The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point College of Natural Resources Principles of Professionalism

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.

Important Links and Information

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UW-Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information visit:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here:

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

Emergency Events

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone located outside TNR room 256. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. In this case, stay in TNR 252, it is one of the designated shelter areas.

See

[https://campus.uwsp.edu/sites/facplan/campus/Evacuation%20Floor%20Plans/CNR%20Sept%20EMERGENCY%20SC%20SECOND%20FLOOR%20\(1\).pdf](https://campus.uwsp.edu/sites/facplan/campus/Evacuation%20Floor%20Plans/CNR%20Sept%20EMERGENCY%20SC%20SECOND%20FLOOR%20(1).pdf)

for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at the library. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”