

Dr. Anna Haines
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Office Hours:

Course Meeting Times

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30am – 10:45am, Room 271 TNR

Course Description

The constant push and pull of competing priorities for natural resources represents a critical challenge for conservation professionals. Developing your ability to navigate national, state, and local policy contexts is important for all planners seeking to work with communities to find solutions to challenges they are facing in managing their resources. This class will examine the planning process used on public lands in contrast to private lands and focus on a variety of techniques and tools used by government (local, state and federal) to address various natural resource issues.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to introduce the concepts, methods, and techniques necessary for planning and policy to students to develop the skills necessary to successfully understand the decision context within which communities develop plans to resolve natural resource challenges. Over the course of the semester students will cultivate professional skills based on the following objectives:

1. To enhance knowledge about society's ongoing struggle in balancing its ability to use land and protect natural resources.
2. To understand concepts and techniques of planning at the federal and state level for public lands.
3. To understand planning processes for managing natural resources at all scales for both public and private lands.
4. Understand state and federal regulations that pertain to planning including NEPA.
5. To visually communicate ideas through conceptual maps, site assessment graphics, and photo-visualizations in a manner that captures the imagination of the public.
6. Develop and practice communication skills.

Readings

There is no text for this course. Readings are available in Canvas or will be distributed in class. The course schedule identifies the readings for which all students should be prepared to discuss in class on the date the readings are assigned.

Assignments and Grading

The quality of the work that you produce during this semester should reflect your highest effort as many of the course assignment are designed to support the development of your professional portfolio.

I. Readings and Discussion: This course expects all students to read, digest, and comment on the readings within a discussion board on Canvas. These discussions are critical to a more complete understanding of natural resource planning and it should continue to build your writing and critical thinking skills.

II. Skill Development: You will focus on using planning software (ESRI for GIS, Adobe Photoshop and SketchUp) to enhance your ability to communicate your ideas in a way that is accessible, informative, and captures the imagination of the public. The activities included in this project will focus on practicing your skills from previous classes, while introducing new software.

Note:* Course pre-requisites provide students with experience using these software programs, as a result all students are expected to complete these assignments. This means that if you lack experience or have never used this software before ***you will need to seek out introductory resources on your own – our campus currently provides access to software training support through Linda.com. You also may seek help from each other and from a volunteer TA.

III. Planning Project:

Evaluation: Students will choose two natural resource plans to evaluate. Students will choose two federal agency land management plans from USFS, FWS, BLM, or NPS from anywhere in the U.S. Ideally each plan will be chosen from a different land management agency, for example, one from USFS and one from FWS. The focus of the plan must be on the entire property, not focused on a particular use, habitat, or animal. Each student will compare and contrast two plans. A set of plan documents must be available for you to examine.

Site Analysis and Visualizations: You will choose a project from one of your plans to practice your GIS, Photoshop and SketchUp skills. You will create a site analysis for a new or revised camping area, trail, etc. using GIS, create a visualization of the site using Photoshop, and use SketchUp to create another visualization.

Lightning Talk: You will briefly present your plans, your evaluation of them, and your site analysis and visualizations in class.

IV. Ice Age Trail and EIS Project:

Site Analysis and Visualization: We will be working to understand federal policy / regulations designed to protect the environment, while also breaking down the federal planning process into comprehensible

pieces and communicating this information for a public audience through the use of Photoshop and SketchUp.

Lightning Talk: You will briefly present your plans, your evaluation of them, and your site analysis and visualizations in class.

V. Mid-term & Final Exam: To gauge class understanding and evaluate how well you are able to connect concepts discussed in lectures, readings, and assignments to natural resource planning there will be 2 exams throughout the course of the semester.

If you are taking this course for graduate credit, there is an additional assignment usually a 20-page paper focused on some aspect of your thesis or project. Please see me at my office – TNR 205 as soon as possible after the course begins.

Summary of Deadlines / Assignments

Due Date	Group or Individual Assignment	Brief Description	Points
See Schedule and Assignment	Individual	Reading Discussions in Canvas	100
	Individual	Planning Project	
		Evaluation	100
		Site Analysis and Visualization	100
		Lightning Talk	25
	Individual	Skill Development (Adobe Photoshop and SketchUp)	100
	Group	Ice Age Trail and EIS Project (pairs)	
		Site Analysis and Visualization poster	125
		Lightning Talk	25
Individual	Mid-Term Exam	75	
Individual	Final Exam	75	
Individual	Class Participation	100	
	Total	825	

Attendance & Participation

Class attendance is mandatory except with prior agreement (this includes the required field trips). Unexcused absence from class negatively affects your learning and your final grade will be reduced by 15 points for each absence during the semester. In addition, students with repeated unexcused absences during the semester may be removed from project teams and required to complete the assignment individually.

I will not tolerate free riding. Learning to work in groups isn't always easy, but developing this ability is critical to a future career in natural resources. I will not tolerate a group member not completing their share of the workload but sharing the benefits of the group. If there is a problem with the group dynamics,

it is imperative that you call it to my attention at the earliest possible time. If your group would like to meet with me for assistance on a group project, I will make myself readily available. If evidence of a free riding problem arises, we will attempt to address it at a group meeting. If the problem persists, the free rider will be removed from the group by the instructor and will receive 0 points for the project.

Late Assignments

Papers turned in late will be assessed a 20% reduction penalty per day -- including weekends. All assignments (unless otherwise noted) are due in hard copy on the date and time indicated on the assignment handout.

Academic Integrity, D2L, and turnitin.com

It is important for students to read and understand the academic honesty policy of UWSP. In addition to university policies any attempt to cheat, plagiarize, or take credit for work that is not your own will result in a zero on the assignment. As you may encounter a number of complicated questions regarding how to cite sources of information (e.g. spatial data, images, or community data), I encourage you to discuss any questions you may have about citation, paraphrasing, or related topics with me prior to turning in an assignment. In addition, assignments turned in through D2L drop box will be linked to turnitin.com – a program that compares your work to other sources to check for originality.

Accessibility Statement

If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability Services office with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. 103 Student Services Center, (715) 346-3365; TTY (715) 346-3363;
www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/studentinfo.htm

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
(W) 9/4	Introduction to NRP	
(M) 9/9	Public Lands	Managing Public Lands – CQ and Federal Land Management Agency – see Canvas for more details
(W) 9/11Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 1
(M) 9/16	NR Planning	Practical Ecology: Humans Plan and Federal Land Management Agency – see Canvas for more details
(W) 9/18	FIELD TRIP State natural area	
(M) 9/23	Process	Integrated Environmental Planning: Nature of Planning
(W) 9/25Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 2 and 3
(M) 9/30	Nuts and Bolts of Process	Integrated Environmental Planning: Making Plans
(W) 10/2	FIELD TRIP State natural area or county park	
(M) 10/7	Does Planning Matter?	Effective Protection of Open Space: Does Planning Matter?
(W) 10/9Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 4
(M) 10/14	NRP and ownership of process and plans	Exploring the Concept of Ownership in NRP
(W) 10/16Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 5
(M) 10/21	Barriers to Effective NRP	Barriers to Effective NRP
(W) 10/22	Midterm Exam	
(M) 10/28	Scenario Planning	Choice of reading – see Canvas for more details
(W) 10/30Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 6
(M) 11/4	Plan Evaluation Lightning Talks	
(W) 11/6	Plan Evaluation Lightning Talks	

(M) 11/11	EIS and Planning	NEPA Citizen's Guide – p.1-19.
(W) 11/13Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 6
(M) 11/18	EIS and Planning	Impact of Change
(W) 11/20	Skills/Workday	
(M) 11/25	Conservation Easements and Property Rights	Private Ownership of Land
(W) 11/27Δ	Skills/Workday	
(M) 12/2	Conservation Easements	Land Management Restrictions and Options for Change in Perpetual CEs
(W) 12/4	Conservation Easements	Land Trusts and CEs: Who is Conserving What for Whom?
(M) 12/9	EIS Lightning Talks	
(W) 12/11	EIS Lightning Talks	
(T) 12/17 2:45-4:45	Final Exam	

ΔDates class will be held in the Advanced Computer Lab (TNR 322)