

**WATR 200**  
**Preparing for a Career in Fisheries and Water Resources**  
**Spring Semester 2024, 1 Credit**

*Instructor of Record:* Dr. Justin VanDeHey

*Office:* TNR 178      *Office hours:* Mondays 12:00 – 1:00 and Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00

*Phone and email:* 715-346-2090; [jvandehe@uwsp.edu](mailto:jvandehe@uwsp.edu)

*Meeting day and time:* Mondays 1:00-1:50 PM

*Classroom:* TNR 120

*CANVAS:* <https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/653559>

*Other Fisheries and Water Resources Faculty*

Dr. Justin VanDeHey, TNR 178, 715-346-2090, [jvandehe@uwsp.edu](mailto:jvandehe@uwsp.edu)

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## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing this course students will be able to:

- 1) Competently and completely plan their academic program for the fisheries and water resources majors;
- 2) Articulate what fisheries and water resource scientists do for a living;
- 3) Make an intelligent and informed career choice with respect to options in the fisheries and water resources fields; and
- 4) Find and effectively use resources to aid them in finding permanent and/or temporary jobs in fisheries and water resources.
- 5) Gain skills (interview and cover letters) related to obtaining employment in these professions

## **Grading**

**Assignments (see following pages):**

The course is essentially graded as pass/fail. You must complete all four (4) homework assignments during the semester. You must receive a score of at least 70% on all homework assignments; failure to do so will result in a failure of the course. Assignments must be turned in by the due date. A penalty of 2 percentage point per day will apply to all late assignments. You are expected to do your own work on all assignments. Plagiarized assignments indicate a lack of integrity not consistent with the natural resources profession and will result in a grade of zero.

**Attendance:**

**You can miss a MAXIMUM of TWO lecture or attendance assignments. Missing more than two will result in an automatic fail.** If due to a medical or personal reason, you cannot complete an attendance assignment within the required time frame (one week), you must contact Dr. VanDeHey to discuss alternatives. PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH ME!

**Boaters Safety Course:**

For students in Section #1 (those who have not taken Boaters Safety) you must take and pass the on-line Wisconsin Boater's Education Course. You will receive an email with instructions on how to take the course. Upon completion of the boater's safety course you must provide proof (photo, hard copy, etc...) of a passing score to Dr. VanDeHey to pass the course (WATR 200). **You must complete the Boaters Safety by the last week of classes (May 10<sup>th</sup>).**

**Tentative Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
Jan. 22	Introduction, objectives, assignments, educational planning	Dr. VanDeHey
Jan. 29	Selecting an option in Fisheries and Water Resources	Dr. VanDeHey
Feb. 5	Internships	Dr. Raabe
Feb. 12	Professional Societies	Dr. VanDeHey
Feb. 19	Interview Skills	Dr. VanDeHey
Feb. 26	AccessPoint, DPRs, degree planning & the SSC	Ms. Youngberg
Mar. 4	Professionalism	Dr. Brian Sloss
Mar. 11	Working in the Private Sector	Jon Gumtow
Mar. 18	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>	-----
Mar. 25	Issues in Water Resource Management	Dr. George Kraft
Apr. 1	Graduate School Considerations	Dr. VanDeHey
Apr. 8	Working for the Federal Government	Mr. Matt Kornis
Apr. 15	Working for a County Municipality	Dan McFarlane
Apr. 22	Careers in Water Resources and Hydrology	Dr. Kevin Masarik
Apr. 29	Careers in Fisheries	Dr. Raabe
May 6	Working for a State agency	Ms. Jennifer Bergman

## **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

Brief descriptions of the four required assignments are given below. More detailed information including due dates, formats and content requirements will be given out in class and posted to CANVAS at the appropriate times.

ASSIGNMENT 1: Research summer job and internship opportunities (25 points)

Obtaining field experience is a very important step in your professional development. In this assignment you will search for three job opportunities and write descriptions of the jobs, any requirements, and application procedures. Two of the jobs should be seasonal/temporary (e.g. summer) in nature, the other job should be your “dream” job, or a permanent position that you think you would enjoy. Please indicate which jobs are seasonal and which is your dream job. Provide a weblink for where you found each of the position descriptions. Finally, tell me why you want this position (1-2 sentences per job). **Assignment is due Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**

ASSIGNMENT 2: Prepare a degree plan starting with your current semester through graduation (25 points).

This assignment is designed to assist you in getting through your program in the most efficient way possible. This requires thought and foresight. Choosing your schedule each semester without thought for the future is a sure way to extend your stay and cost you thousands of additional dollars. First, list your major and your name at the top of the page. Please include the course prefix and numbers (e.g., WATR 200), the name of the course, and the number of credits each course is. If you have already taken some courses here at UWSP please include those in the appropriate semester blocks on the template (provided on Canvas). Make sure to select your elective courses as well. Don't just put “elective credits.” Be very aware that many courses are only offered during the fall or spring semesters, not both. Also, when you turn this assignment in to Canvas please include an updated copy of your Degree Progress Report (DPR). **Assignment is due March 4<sup>th</sup>**.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Attend a student chapter of a professional society meeting. (25 points).

After the meeting, write a one-page, double-spaced summary. Include the date attended and a description of the topics discussed at the meeting. If there is a guest speaker, include a summary of their presentation. Finish your write up by including some reflections and impressions of your visit that include ways you could contribute to the mission of the professional society as well as ways that you would benefit from involvement with that, or another professional society. Upload your essay to Canvas for this assignment.

Fisheries students attend The American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting, water resource or hydrology majors attend an American Water Resources Association (AWRA) or Students for Wetland Awareness, Management and Protection (SWAMP) meeting. Alternative, appropriate professional societies must be approved by the instructor prior to submission of the assignment.

A list of student professional organizations can be found: <https://spin.uwsp.edu/organizations>

You can also find information in the CNR Reporter:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/ssc/Pages/CNR%20Reporter.aspx>

**Assignment is due April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

ASSIGNMENT 4: Develop a draft cover letter for future use (25 points).

Develop a draft cover letter for one of the seasonal jobs you found for assignment #1. Example cover letters and writing tips are available on Canvas.

**Assignment is due April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

FINAL EXAM: The final exam for this course is a take home exam. The exam is for you to complete the online boater's safety course. Upon complete please email your temporary boater's safety certificate to Dr. VanDeHey - [jvandehe@uwsp.edu](mailto:jvandehe@uwsp.edu)  
Students in section 2 of the course have already completed this requirement.

## **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**

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.