

# Aquatic Ecology (WATR 388/588)

**Location:** TNR 352

**Instructor:** Dr. Jered Studinski

**Office:** TNR 184

**Office Hours:** M/W/Th 9-11am, plus nearly any other time upon request

**Lecture:** T/Th 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

**Email:** jered.studinski@uwsp.edu

**Phone:** (715) 346-2832

**Description:** Physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of freshwater ecosystems.

**Learning outcomes:** After completing this course, students will be able to describe the physical and chemical characteristics, identify the biota, understand the ecological processes, and explain the effects of human activities in freshwater ecosystems.

**Suggested Course Materials:** Via textbook rental - “Freshwater Ecology” by Dodds and Whiles.

**Grading:** Lecture exams 1, 2, and 3: 100 points each (300 points total)

Assignments, activities, and quizzes: ~50 pts

**Letter grades:** Grades are rounded to the nearest whole percent. For example, an 89.51% = A-, while an 89.49% = B+.

|             |             |             |             |           |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 100-92% = A | 89-88% = B+ | 79-78% = C+ | 69-68% = D+ | 59-0% = F |
| 91-90% = A- | 87-82% = B  | 77-72% = C  | 67-62% = D  |           |
|             | 81-80% = B- | 71-70% = C- | 61-60% = D- |           |

**Attendance/success policy:** Attendance is expected, and you will not do well if you miss class. Missed lectures will translate into missed points on exams. Depending on attendance, I may implement an attendance policy or administer pop quizzes.

**Missed exams:** Only with an excused absence (e.g., death of a family member, serious illness, hospitalization) will I nullify or allow you to make up missed exams. A make-up exam may differ in format from the original exam.

**Tentative schedule:** Note that assignments, quizzes, and activities are not shown, but may occur throughout the semester.

| Week | Date   | Subject   |
|------|--------|---|
| 1    | 23-Jan | Assessment quiz, 1 - Introduction to water                          |
| 2    | 30-Jan | 2 - Light in water  |
| 3    | 6-Feb  | 3 - Physiography of lakes and reservoirs                            |
| 4    | 13-Feb | 4 - Physiography of streams,  |
| 5    | 20-Feb | 5 - Physiography of wetlands  |
| 6    | 27-Feb | <b>Review (Tuesday), Exam 1 (Thursday) 29-Feb</b>                   |
| 7    | 5-Mar  | 6 - Aquatic life, 7 - Underlying ecological concepts                |
| 8    | 12-Mar | 8 - Basics of energy and material flow                              |
| 9    | 19-Mar | No class, spring break  |
| 10   | 26-Mar | 9 - Primary productivity, 10 - Nutrients and their effects          |
| 11   | 2-Apr  | 11 - Trophic dynamics   |
| 12   | 9-Apr  | <b>Review (Tuesday), Exam 2 (Thursday) 11-Apr</b>                   |
| 13   | 16-Apr | 12 - Alternative stable states                                      |
| 14   | 23-Apr | 13 - Allochthonous materials, 14 - Inflow, drift, and flood ecology |
| 15   | 30-Apr | 15 - Spatial and temporal factors                                   |
| 16   | 7-May  | 16 - Stream restoration, review                                     |

**Exam 3 (final exam), May 13 (Monday), 12:30 - 2:30 pm, TNR 352**

**Electronic devices:** Put your phone away and talk to people around you. Pay attention to the lecture, take good notes, and ask questions. Be an active participant in your education. Taking notes on tablets and laptops is discouraged as research suggests it harms your course performance and the performance of those around you. However, if you must take notes electronically, please sit at the edges or back of the classroom.

**Graduate students:** Grades for the course follow the above guidelines. In addition, a 40-minute seminar on a selected and approved topic will be required. The seminar will be worth 50 points.

**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 need additional support which individually 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 based on sex, which includes harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If 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/Pages/default.aspx>  
Title IX page: <https://www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/Affirmative%20Action/Title-IX.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 and Assistive Technology 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.  
DATC contact info: [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu); 715/346-3365; 609 Albertson Hall, 900 Reserve Street

**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 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. 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](mailto:dos@uwsp.edu). Diversity and College Access is available for resources and support of all students: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dca>.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/clery>.

**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: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv/Pages/dfsc.aspx>

**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 at <http://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/copyright>.

**Online teaching:** Lecture materials and recordings for this course are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.