

Assessment of Aquatic Systems (WATR 482/682), Spring 2024

Lecture: T/Th. 2:00-2:50 pm TNR 351

Instructor: Dr. Jered Studinski

Office: TNR 184

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

Lab: F 9:00-10:50 am TNR 351

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Description: Assessment and effects of physical and chemical pollution in the aquatic environment. Project oriented application of laboratory assays and field assessments and their interpretation using bacteria, invertebrates, aquatic plants, and fish.

Learning outcomes: After completing this course, students will understand 1) the local and global threats to water quality, 2) the theory and application of water monitoring strategies, and 3) the application and interpretation of common water monitoring methods.

Required course materials: Waders, outdoor clothing, a good attitude, and kindness (some group work is required).

Grading: Exam 1: 50 pts

Exam 2: 75 pts

Capstone presentation: 30 pts

Capstone report: 70 pts

Assignments: ~75 pts

Total: ~300 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. 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 makeup exam may differ in format from the original exam.

Tentative plan: Lecture and lab topics are ordered below. This course is in development, dates may change. In addition to the schedule below, there will be one Saturday or Sunday in late spring (date TBD) required for stream electrofishing.

Week	Date	Lecture	Lab
1	23-Jan	Course intro, Lecture 1: Water use	No lab
2	30-Jan	Lecture 2: Characteristics of water, TotC in-class work time	Tragedy of the Commons discussion
3	6-Feb	Lecture 3: Aquatic ecology review	Stream discharge assignment
4	13-Feb	Lecture 4: Definition and theory of WQA	TBD
5	20-Feb	Lecture 5: Aquatic invertebrate identification	Aquatic invertebrate identification practice
6	27-Feb	Review, Exam 1 Thursday Feb. 29	Introduction to capstone project, group formation, site selection
7	5-Mar	Lecture 6: Pollutants and their impacts	Periphyton and phosphorous assignment
8	12-Mar	Lecture 7: The basics of indices	Natural communities and trophic status assignment
9	19-Mar	Spring break	Spring break
10	26-Mar	Lecture 8: The specifics of indices	Fish index application
11	2-Apr	Lecture 9: Legislative framework	Aquatic plant index application
12	9-Apr	Lecture 10: Defining waters of the US	Invertebrate index creation
13	16-Apr	Review, Exam 2 Thursday April 18	Capstone project protocols and schedule
14	23-Apr	Lecture 11: Writing and presentation tips	Capstone project field and lab work
15	30-Apr	Capstone project field and lab work	Capstone project field and lab work
16	7-May	Capstone project field and lab work	Capstone project field and lab work
Final exam week: Capstone project presentations, Thursday May 16, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, TNR 351			

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 30-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; 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 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. 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>.

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 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/dfsca.aspx>

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