

GOOD IDEAS CONFERENCE

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:30-8:45 A.M. Coffee & Chat

8:45-9 A.M. Welcome & Announcements

9-10 A.M. General Sessions

10-10:30 A.M. Morning Break

10:30 A.M.-Noon Morning Classes

Noon-1 P.M. Lunch

1-2:30 P.M. Afternoon Classes

2:24-3:45 P.M. General Sessions and Last Day will be a reception

*Scholarships Available

For more information, email uwspce-wausau@uwsp.edu

MORNING GENERAL SESSIONS

9:00-10:00 A.M.

The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: The Ship, the Storm, and the Song. *Offered Hybrid

Steve Ackerman (Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison)

We explore the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald from perspectives of the weather, the ship and the song by Gordon Lightfoot.

A Look Into Organic Vegetable Farming *Offered Hybrid

Stacey Botsford (Owner of Red Door Family Farm)

Follow Stacey and Tenzin's journey becoming farmers, starting Red Door Family Farm, and the lessons learned along the way. Get an overview of their farming practices and how their "direct to consumer" approach has made their path possible, while continuing to prioritize good land management.

The Future of Public Media in Wisconsin *Offered Hybrid

Sarah Ashworth (Director of Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio)

A brief summary of the state of affairs at Wisconsin Public Radio and PBS Wisconsin, new and exciting programming, changing funding models, and how listeners and viewers can support Wisconsin Public Media.

AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSIONS

2:45-3:45 P.M.

The Art and Artifice of 16th & Early 17th Century Engraved Titlepages and Frontispieces in Science *Offered Hybrid

Keith Montgomery (Professor Emeritus, UW-Marathon County)

We will look at the front matter of publications in early science. In addition to its artistic merits, such material often carried hidden messages and references to the material or to the structure of knowledge and the understanding of nature.

From Forest to Future: How Wisconsin is Investing in Green Careers *Offered Hybrid

Steve Hubbard (Director, Wisconsin Forestry Center)

Forestry is more than trees—it's about people, innovation, and sustainability. The Wisconsin Forestry Center is leading a state-wide effort to create accessible, high-quality training and career pathways in the forestry sector, supported by an \$8 million WEDC grant. Discover how this initiative connects education, industry, and community partners to build a strong, future-ready workforce while supporting the stewardship of Wisconsin's forests.

MORNING CLASSES (CHOOSE ONE) | 10:30 A.M.-NOON

Political Religion on the U.S. Left & Right *Offered Hybrid | Ryan T. O'Leary, Ph.D. (Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies & Learning Center Specialist)

The United States is unique among the world's nations for many reasons. One of those is the fact that Americans remain far more religious than citizens of any other developed, Western country. Meanwhile, since the 1960s, the traditional American left and right have become what scholars call the New Left and the New Right. This seminar will define those differences, then consider how both camps understand and deploy religious themes in making their cases and mobilizing their bases.

The Russian Invasion of Ukraine, its Causes, Course, and likely Consequences. *Offered Hybrid | Jeff Leigh, Ph.D. (History Professor, UW-Stevens Point)

The class will investigate the reasons behind the Russian invasion to include Ukraine's previous status within the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. It will then move on to discuss how the war has been fought. It will then conclude with a discussion of what we can say at that point about its likely conclusion and its greater meaning within European and global history.

Introduction to Collage | Rachel Hausmann-Schall (Artist, Writer, and Educator)

Learn the basics of collage during this introductory course that provides participants with the opportunity to make artworks using humble materials like paper, magazine and newspaper clippings, book pages, and other ephemera. Taking inspiration from collage artists across history, participants will also experiment with alternative techniques and materials ranging from image transfer to found objects. Enjoy exploring the mixed-media possibilities of collaging on a flat surface and take home a completed 8x5.5" artwork. No prior art making experience required, this course is designed for beginners.

Express Spanish | Catalina Cabello (Spanish Instructor)

Come and be bilingual in the most spoken language in the U.S after English! Learn Basic Spanish phrases through real-life situations at the airport, restaurant, or grocery store. Topics to be covered include asking and giving personal information, vocabulary related to traveling or shopping and talking about family and friends.

AFTERNOON CLASSES (CHOOSE ONE) | 1:00-2:30 P.M.

The Life and Poetry of Emily Dickinson *Offered Hybrid | Brett Barker (History Professor, UW-Stevens Point)

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) is widely recognized today as one of America's greatest poets. Only 10 of her 1800 poems were published during her lifetime and she only gained recognition after her death when family published her work. She remained secluded at home in Amherst, Massachusetts, much of her life, although she maintained an extensive correspondence with friends. In this class, we will read her greatest poems and learn more about the life of this extraordinary American.

Discover Arthur Miller's THE CRUCIBLE. | Sarah J. Rudolph (Professor Emeritas, UW-Stevens Point)

Join Sarah Rudolph for an exploration of Arthur Miller's classic THE CRUCIBLE. You are welcome to read aloud or just sit back and listen. You will learn about Miller's journey as he wrote the play and consider various productions and responses to the work.

Conscious of a Brilliant Future: Exploring the Local History of Marathon County *Offered Hybrid | Ben Clark (Historian)

In 1898, the Wisconsin historian Reuben Gold Thwaites wrote of Wausau, describing it as being "a typical lumber town, alive with the bustle of the world, and conscious of a brilliant future." Over the three sessions, we will explore the local history of Wausau and wider Marathon County. From the early arrival of lumberjacks and immigrant homesteaders, to the story of how they built communities in of hopes attaining the "brilliant future" they believed was possible for Marathon County.

Social Strategies | Becky Wirkus (Youth Programming Manager, UW-Stevens Point)

Venture into this session with your competitive, yet social mindset and we will explore games that groups of any age can play. Try your hand at Arizona Spaghetti/Canadian Salad, Spades/Hearts and we can dice it up with Horse Racing.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration will be accepted through December 29, 2025 or until full. For help with registration, email uwspcweb@uwsp.edu or call 715-346-3838.

Registrant 1

Registrant 2

Address

Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Phone #

Phone #

Email (required)

Email (required)

REGISTRANT 1

Morning Class Session _____

Afternoon Class Session _____

Attending Online or In-Person _____

REGISTRANT 2

Morning Class Session _____

Afternoon Class Session _____

Attending Online or In-Person _____

Registration fee (all fees are per participant) Total _____

(\$85 general public, \$75 UWSP Alumni/LIFE Members, \$75 Early Bird (ends 11/19)

Optional Lunch-Covers all three days (\$48) Total _____

Day 1: Sandwiches (Ham&Cheese, Turkey&Cheese, Garden Veggie) broccoli salad, chips, cookie

Day 2: Wraps (Roast Beef, Chicken Basil Pesto, Hummus Veggie), chips, fruit, cookie

Day 3: Hot Sandwich Buffet - BBQ Pulled Pork, veggies and dip, pasta salad, cookie

GRAND TOTAL _____

Registration Details:

1. You must register for one morning and one afternoon class (options are listed at the top of this page). Each class meets for three days.
2. Your Welcome Email with Zoom/Hybrid details and session links will be sent to you on the Friday prior to Good Ideas.
3. If you are not familiar with Zoom and would like help before the conference, please email uwspcelife@uwsp.edu to attend training.
4. Emails are required due to virtual format presentations.
5. Registration discounts are only available to LIFE members and UWSP Alumni. All memberships will be verified at registration. Registration for LIFE can be added at the time of registration for additional program opportunities and the discount.
6. Ways to register:
 - Call 715.346.3838 to register by phone
 - Complete the form at left and mail form and check made payable to:

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