

**FOR 332/532 Forest Ecosystem Ecology
Fall 2021**

Lecture: Online, asynchronous

There are no required Zoom or other meetings; new material is posted Monday mornings

Instructors:

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COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The overall objective for the course is to provide a broad, mechanism and process-based understanding of forest function and dynamics. In addition to content, there are skills you should acquire by the end of the course. Thus, you should be able to:

- 1) explain important interactions among organisms and their impacts on plants;
- 2) describe and discuss community structure, diversity and dynamics;
- 3) explain factors that influence succession and community response to disturbance;
- 4) describe and explain how human actions affect ecosystem processes;
- 5) describe and explain landscape structure, and its relevance to resource management;
- 6) Understand the linkages between carbon cycles in forests and global carbon cycles.
- 7) Explain the influence of climate change on forest ecosystems as well as strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 8) Understand the influence of site on forest community structure and composition and how nutrient availability, climate and other factors influence patterns of vegetation.

The course focus is the temperate zone and on ecological principles that provide the foundation for resource management (very broadly defined).

The content and learned outcomes associated with FOR 332/532 are aligned with the following SAF accreditation competencies:

Ecology and Biology

- an ability to make ecosystem, forest and stand assessments;
- knowledge of tree physiology and the effects of climate, pollutants, moisture, nutrients, genetics, insects and diseases on tree and forest health and productivity

Required TEXT: Forest Ecology, 4th edit. 1998. by Burton V. Barnes and others -- text rental
Readings from peer-reviewed journals and other sources will be posted in Canvas to accompany the lecture topics.

Grades

<u>Evaluation Type</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>% of grade</u>
Lecture exams (3 exams @ 35 pts each)	105	42%
Lecture quizzes (6 quizzes @ 7.5 pts each)	45	18%
Site evaluation exercise	100	40%
	250	100%

Lecture exams will be short answer/essay questions based on lecture material and readings. They will be somewhat cumulative since we are building on material each week. Lecture quizzes will also focus on lecture material and readings; they will be short quizzes and will act as 'check-ins' to make sure you are understanding and keeping up with the course material. Lecture quizzes will focus on material since the last quiz. The site evaluation exercise will apply the information you are learning in this course. All of the quizzes, exams and exercises are to be completed individually.

Tentative Lecture Schedule, Fall 2021

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sept 2	Course introduction
2	Sept 7	Ecological frameworks; concepts of ecosystem, site, and community; Physiography
3	Sept 13	Soil relationships; nutrients; acid effects; decomposition and nutrient cycling <i>Lecture quiz</i>
4	Sept 20	Temperature; Light; Soil water & water stress
5	Sept 27	Competition and cooperation; interactions; plant defenses <i>Lecture quiz</i>
6	Oct 4	Regeneration; plant reproduction <i>Lecture exam 1</i>
7	Oct 11	Diversity
8	Oct 18	Disturbance ecology <i>Lecture quiz</i>
9	Oct 25	Disturbance ecology contd. <i>Lecture quiz</i>
10	Nov 1	Succession <i>Lecture exam 2</i>
11	Nov 8	Site quality evaluation; landscape ecology
12	Nov 15	Northern habitat groups <i>Lecture quiz</i>
13	Nov 22	Southern habitat groups
14	Nov 29	Western forests and other forests of the world <i>Lecture quiz</i>
15	Dec 6	Climate change; carbon cycling/ carbon balance <i>Site evaluation exercise due Monday, Dec 13</i>
		<i>Final exam due Thursday, Dec 16</i>

Readings for each week will be posted on our course Canvas page

CANVAS:

We will be using the Course Management System, Canvas. Canvas login, support information, and training opportunities are available at www.uwsp.edu/canvas. Lecture powerpoints, readings, grades, announcements, and all other course information will be posted on our course Canvas page. *All material posted in Canvas is the intellectual property of Dr. Holly Petrillo and Dr. Eli Anoszko, and may not be distributed without consent.

UWSP COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

UWSP values a safe, honest, and respectful learning environment. To ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, the University has developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors called the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, which can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is essential to the University mission and success in life. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. Do not do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. See “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document ([http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-](http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf)

[2010/rightsChap14.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf)).

Trust between students and instructors is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom (e.g., cheating on exams) or in research efforts (e.g., online assignments). Students found cheating will be punished to the fullest extent that University policy permits.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. More information about UWSP’s policies can be found at

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

Students with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (Rm. 609, Learning Resource Center; (715)346-3365) during the first three weeks of the semester. If an accommodation is granted by the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, an accommodations request form should be provided to and discussed with the instructor. We ask that any accommodations request be brought to our attention at least one week prior to the need for accommodation, or as soon as it is practical to do so. We will be happy to assist in any way that we can.

Indigenous Peoples Lands Recognition

The UW-Stevens Point community recognizes that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies the lands of the Ho Chunk and Menomonee people. Please take moments throughout

this course to acknowledge and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk and Menomonee land, and the sacred lands of all 14 indigenous peoples.

Inclusive Environment

We strive to make all spaces in this course, both in-person and online, inclusive environments. Students are respected, by the instructor and by other students, and should feel comfortable sharing ideas and opinions. Included below are the UWSP CNR Principles of Professionalism, the forestry discipline's anti-harassment statement, and the SAF Code of Ethics, all of which are applicable in this course. Please help the instructor create an inclusive learning environment for all.

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.

Forestry Anti-harassment Statement

Introduction

The forestry discipline within the College of Natural Resources (CNR), at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) has expectations for professional behavior of its students, staff, faculty, and other associated parties. Anyone who has a reasonable belief that they, or another student, staff, faculty or guest, have been the victim of harassment, bullying, or discrimination, or any other violation in the statement herein, are encouraged and expected to report the conduct. See reporting options and guidelines at the end of this document.

The forestry discipline within the College of Natural Resources is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and professional environment. The forestry discipline operates under the UWSP harassment, discrimination, and retaliation prevention guidelines, copied here:

“The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is committed to fostering an environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive to all and to educate all employees on these important issues. In addition, we are obligated, under Regent policy and federal regulations, to ensure our employees are informed on the issues of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence.”

Statement

The forestry discipline, following the lead of the Society of American Foresters which accredits the B.S. forestry degree, believes we all have a responsibility in creating a safe, inclusive, professional environment in all forestry-related activities and events. All forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying are prohibited. This applies to all participants in all settings (online and in-person) and locations (on- and off-campus) where forestry classes and associated activities are conducted, including student organization events and activities, committee meetings, workshops, conferences, and other work and social functions where employees, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, or guests are present.

Discrimination is prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, marital or parental status, veteran status, or any other category protected by law.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state, and local laws.

Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, ridicule, hazing or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment. Bullying behavior may go beyond characteristics protected by applicable laws, including but not limited to, political views, dress, or other outward physical appearances.

Other types of harassment include any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

The following list, while not exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior: slurs, jokes, threats, or derogatory comments relating to the characteristics noted above. Examples of inappropriate physical harassment that violate this statement include, but are not limited to: assault, unwanted touching, or impeding or blocking movement. In addition, no individual may be denied admission to, or participation in or the benefits of, any UWSP-associated events. Similarly, the display or circulation of derogatory or demeaning posters,

cards, cartoons, emails, texts, videos, and graffiti which relate to characteristics noted above violate this statement.

Reporting

Students, staff, faculty, or guests associated with Forestry-related programming who experience or witness incidents of harassment are strongly encouraged to report the incident. The Forestry discipline strongly urges the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken.

Reporting can be done online or in person, to a faculty or staff member, and/or the UWSP Dean of Students. Anonymous reporting is available.

The UWSP Title IX Website is the home for all information related to harassment and discrimination, including reporting options, student and employee resources, and information about what happens after a report is submitted:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/titleix/Pages/default.aspx>

Society of American Foresters Code of Ethics

Preamble

Service to society is the cornerstone of any profession. The profession of forestry serves society by fostering stewardship of the world's forests. Because forests provide valuable resources and perform critical ecological functions, they are vital to the wellbeing of both society and the biosphere.

Members of SAF have a deep and enduring love for the land, and are inspired by the profession's historic traditions, such as Gifford Pinchot's utilitarianism and Aldo Leopold's ecological conscience. In their various roles as practitioners, teachers, researchers, advisers, and administrators, foresters seek to sustain and protect a variety of forest uses and attributes, such as aesthetic values, air and water quality, biodiversity, recreation, timber production, and wildlife habitat.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives. Compliance with the code demonstrates members' respect for the land and their commitment to the long-term management of ecosystems, and ensures just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

On joining the SAF, members assume a special responsibility to the profession and to society by promising to uphold and abide by the following:

Principles and Pledges

1. Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.
2. Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.
3. Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.
4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.
5. Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.
6. Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.