

# NRES 376/482 Environmental Education Practicum

## Central Wisconsin Environmental Station

### Fall 2020 Syllabus

#### Important Contact Information

##### **Instructors:**

Sam De Roche, CWES Program Manager, [sderoche@uwsp.edu](mailto:sderoche@uwsp.edu), (715) 346-2798

Tom Quinn, CWES Director, [tquinn@uwsp.edu](mailto:tquinn@uwsp.edu), (715) 346-2705

##### **Graduate Assistants:**

Ellen Dolph, [edolph@uwsp.edu](mailto:edolph@uwsp.edu), office (715) 346-2711 or cell (402) 730-3554

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**CWES Main Office:** (715) 346-2937

#### Sections

**NRES 376:** Meets Fridays at CWES and will develop and participate in a variety of programming needs.

**NRES 482:** Meets two days a week in any combination of on site and virtually, Tuesday through Friday. Students will lead a Family Camp Weekend and will develop and provide a wide variety of Environmental Education programming.

**Meeting Times:** Typically, between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, varies weekly

#### Goal

The goal of the CWES Environmental Education Practicum is to develop skills in developing, delivering, and evaluating high-quality environmental education programs for children and young adults.

#### Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will:

##### **Reproduce, translate, and modify CWES environmental education programs via:**

- Preparing lesson plans
- Learning and incorporating local phenology
- Reflecting upon debriefs
- Structuring lessons for age-appropriateness, sequence, encouraging participant agency, content and teaching techniques

##### **Evaluate and illustrate critical analysis of environmental education programs, including:**

- Writing evaluations practicum student peers
- Self assessments, both audio and video
- Effective achievement of learning objectives and professional development goals
- Participation in debriefing

##### **Demonstrate collaboration skills by:**

- Successfully coordinating programming as a CWES Liaison
- Facilitating Family Camp Weekends
- Developing and re-writing lesson plans and specialized programming

## Discover and contribute to the functions of an environmental education center when:

- Participating in an event, "Behind the Scenes", which explains the staff structure, budget, and daily activities at CWES
- Observing various teaching and management styles
- Participating in site facilities responsibilities
- Involved in lesson development, lesson material upkeep and construction
- Facilitating Family Weekend Camp

## Requirements

Grading will be based on the following:

### **Training (8% of grade)**

#### Virtual Practicum Training and 2-Day Practicum Orientation

- Complete self-paced Virtual Training which begins August 1, 2020
- Complete and participate in 2-day training August 27 & 28, 2020

### **Weekly Responsibilities (67% of grade)**

#### Visiting School Group Lesson Preps (30 points each)

- Completed lesson preps to be turned in by noon 2 days before teaching day**
- 1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due.
- Points are determined via rubric
- Forms should be well thought out, clearly written, and include changes from previous week, as well as appropriate teaching goals
- Preps should continue to improve in questioning sequence, age-appropriateness, and teaching techniques as the semester progresses
- Improvements and adaptations outside of the original lesson plan will be expected

#### TRCCS Nature Studies Lesson Plans (35 points each)

- Completed lesson plans to be turned in by noon 2 days before teaching day.**
- 1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due.
- Using the TRCCS lesson plan template, develop an original lesson plan geared toward the Tomorrow River Community Charter School Nature Studies program.
- TRCCS Teachers will be providing an assessment from which you will be submitting a reflection worth 5 points.
- Points are determined via rubric

#### Family Camp Weekend (50 points each)

- Complete documents to be turned in by noon 2 days before registration day**
- 1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due
- Points are determined via rubric
- Demonstration of professionalism and soft skills, i.e., people/social, communication skills, positive attitude, and ability to problem solve
- Successful facilitation of camp and environmental education activities

#### EE Webinar (30 points each)

- Completed lesson preps to be turned in by noon 2 days before teaching day**
- 1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due.
- Points are determined via rubric
- Forms should be well thought out, clearly written, and include changes from previous week,

as well as appropriate teaching goals

-Plans should take into consideration group goal, theme, fluidity, and Grad TA's guidance

-Improvements and adaptations outside of the original lesson plan will be expected

#### Podcast (30 points each)

**-Completed podcast outline to be submitted prior to podcast recording**

**-Complete podcast, publish ready, to be submitted prior to deadline**

-Points are determined via rubric

#### Special Projects and Assignments (10-30 points each)

-Some weeks you may be required to complete a special project or projects related to your practicum experience, ex., creating and editing videos, social media posts, developing/maintaining trails, or working on curriculum development.

#### **Daily Responsibilities (5% of grade)**

##### Daily Points (2 points per week)

-Fulfill duties as scheduled

-Oversee the program in its entirety to ensure a fun educational, and safe program

-Show up to CWES on time

-Participate in project days including the revision/creation of lesson plans

-Always present yourself in a professional manner

-Be an active and vital member of the CWES team

#### **Quizzes (5% of grade)**

##### Weekly Quizzes (5 points each)

**-Each week there will be a quiz on Canvas that must be completed by Friday at 5:00 PM**

-Quizzes are related to phenological information from the Nature Navigator website

#### **Evaluations (15% of grade)**

##### Peer Assessments (5 points each)

-Complete 2 peer assessments after observing the lessons of 2 separate peers

-Share results with the educator and then turn in form to Program Manager prior to deadline

-Be honest and reflective in providing constructive criticism

##### Value-Based Self-Assessment (10 points each)

-Complete value-based self-assessment as instructed

-Turn in assessment form to Program Manager prior to deadline

##### Audio Evaluation (10 points)

-After audio recording a lesson, complete the Audio Evaluation Form

-Reflect upon voice tone, fluctuation, pauses, grammar, speed, habits, etc.

-Try to note strengths in your teaching voice and areas to improve upon

##### Video Evaluation (10 points)

-After video recording a lesson, complete the Video Evaluation Form

-Reflect upon teaching style, gestures, presence, classroom control, etc.

-Try to note strengths in your teaching voice and areas to improve upon

**Extra Credit:** May be earned upon instructor decision

## **Grading**

*(50% of overall 482 course grade)*

A = 100-93%  
A- = 92-90%  
B+ = 89-87%  
B = 86-83%  
B- = 82-80%  
C+ = 79-77%  
C = 76-73%  
C- = 72-70%  
D+ = 69-66%  
D = 66-63%  
F = 62-0%

CWES program staff are here to help you. If you have questions about assignments, if something is unclear to you, or if you have a special circumstance, **please do not wait until the day something is due to ask for help. We are very interested in supporting your success and helping you achieve your professional development and academic goals.**

At any time, if you would like to know what your grade is or how you can improve it, please schedule a meeting with Sam or look for the open door.

## **COVID-19 Policy**

Face Coverings:

At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. **Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes.** Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

Please monitor your own health each day. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email [sderoche@uwsp.edu](mailto:sderoche@uwsp.edu) as soon as possible and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).

As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.

Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.

Instruction will be happening in outdoor classrooms only. Do not have contact with your students or their teachers and chaperones.

Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.

Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.

Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.