

**NRES 482 (12 cr.): Practicum in Environmental Interpretation  
and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources**  
Syllabus – Fall 2020  
Schmeckle Reserve

**Course Schedule:**

**Mondays:** Class meets 2:00-5:00 p.m. Check Canvas for meeting location (Zoom or Schmeckle)  
One day: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday: Self-directed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Evening and Weekend Programs

**Course Instructors:**

Megan Espe  
Environmental Interpretation Instructor  
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Graduate Assistant  
Schmeckle Reserve  
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**Course Description:**

Plan, present, and evaluate interpretive programs, and further your skills creating media for nature centers and park visitors. This capstone course allows you to demonstrate proficiency in skills and knowledge gained in previous environmental education and interpretation courses.

**Office Hours for Megan Espe:**

I am available without an appointment on these days/times: 9-10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. See Zoom in Canvas for the link to join. To arrange meetings at other times, please e-mail [mespe@uwsp.edu](mailto:mespe@uwsp.edu)

**Grading Procedure:**

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92%	B+ = 87-89%	B = 83-86%	B- = 80-82%	C+ = 77-79%
C = 73-76%	C- = 70-72%	D+ = 67-69%	D = 60-66%	F = 59-0%	

Your final grade for NRES 482 will be an average of the two practicum components:

50% CWES teaching responsibilities and assignments (see CWES syllabus)

50% Schmeckle interpretive programs and projects, active participation in group discussions and group programs, attendance, and attitude

**Late Policy:**

Assignments submitted late will be deducted 10 percent/day.

**Required Resources:**

- Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The Interpreter's Guidebook: Techniques for Programs and Presentations*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Stevens Point, WI: UW-SP Foundation.
- NRES 369 Interpretive Media Lab tutorials binder.

## Environmental Interpretation Practicum Student Learning Outcomes

<b>Learning Outcome (LO) #1: Knowledge of Self</b>
Demonstrate a strong awareness of self, including personality, knowledge, strengths, and weaknesses, and work to develop these skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be creative and open to trying something new</li><li>• Adapt to various situations with flexibility, problem-solving, and creativity</li><li>• Demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal growth</li><li>• Prioritize tasks through organizational skills and personal responsibility</li><li>• Admit when you don't know something and be willing to find the answer</li><li>• Exhibit commitment through enthusiasm and passion for Schmeeckle's mission and values</li><li>• Demonstrate professionalism in appearance, attendance, demeanor, and representation of Schmeeckle Reserve</li><li>• Accept constructive feedback and guidance</li></ul>
<b>LO #2: Knowledge of Site and Visitor</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop interpretive programs and media that relate to Schmeeckle Reserve's mission and are relevant to central Wisconsin natural or cultural history.</li><li>• Increase your personal connection to Schmeeckle Reserve and integrate that passion into your interpretive efforts to relate to your audience.</li><li>• Develop interpretive programs and media that target audiences typical to Schmeeckle Reserve, including a variety of ages, backgrounds, and abilities.</li></ul>
<b>LO #3: Program Development</b>
Conduct research, develop a theme and sub-themes, incorporate a variety of creative techniques, and present professional-level interpretive programs for a variety of audiences.
<b>LO #4: Interpretive Media</b>
Create, write, and design non-personal professional interpretive media for program marketing and interpretation.
<b>LO #5: Evaluation</b>
Evaluate your peers' interpretive programs and media and critique your own work for effectiveness and quality.
<b>LO #6: Interpreting Difficult Topics</b>
Describe how to interpret difficult or controversial issues and demonstrate facilitated dialogue techniques.

*Student Learning Outcomes adapted in part from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Interpretation Standards Project, 2018.*

## Environmental Interpretation Practicum Assignments:

### LO #1: Knowledge of Self

1. **Personal Growth Objectives:** *Completed in NRES 483 and referred to in the Schmeeckle practicum.*
2. **Coaching Sessions** (25 pts/each): Schedule and attend three one-on-one meetings with Megan. Attend meetings prepared to share updates on program and media development progress and bring questions and concerns for feedback and guidance.

### LO #3: Interpretive Program Development

1. **Individual Interpretive Program:** Research, plan, develop, and present a public interpretive program on a topic of your choosing that's relevant to Schmeeckle Reserve and its visitors.
  - **Option A: In-person public program:** Outdoor program (with a built-in rain date), at least 45 minutes long, presented to a public audience that targets family groups.
  - **Option B: Video program:** Create a 25-minute interpretive program video that also targets families.

#### Assignments for both options:

- **Tangibles/Intangibles and Theme statement** (10 pts): Develop a focused, creative interpretive theme for your program.
  - **Three Pillars of Interpretation** (10 pts): How does your individual program meet Schmeeckle's goals and adapt to potential audiences? (also LO #2: Knowledge of Site & Visitor)
  - **Program research** (10 pts): Conduct research for your interpretive program and share your sources.
  - **Program Subthemes** (10 pts): Develop main ideas for your program, based on your theme.
  - **Interpretive Techniques** (10 pts): Develop creative techniques for your program, including where to source props.
  - **POW and Conclusion** (10 pts): Develop a thematic POW and Conclusion.
  - **Final Theme Sheet** (50 pts): A final draft, based on the feedback you receive on all of the components above, will be due one week before your rehearsal.
  - **Dress Rehearsal/Video Final Draft** (75 pts): Presented at least 1 week prior to your program. Each program will be presented in its entirety (including props, costumes, demonstrations, activities, media for the program, etc.) to the class during Monday class time. For the video program, a completed draft of your video will be due. The class will provide feedback to help you make final adjustments. Be prepared!
  - **Program Evaluation** (180 pts): Your final public program or video will be evaluated on the use of interpretive principles (45 pts), program organization (45 pts), interpretive techniques (45 pts), and effort (45 pts).
2. **"Nature Notes" Program Videos:** Create a short (~5 minute) interpretive program video that will be posted on the Schmeeckle YouTube and Facebook page.
    - **Draft Theme Sheet** (20 pts): Due 1 week after your public program.
    - **Draft Video** (25 pts): Due 2 weeks after your public program.
    - **Final Theme Sheet** (40 pts): Due along with your draft video.
    - **Final Video** (50 pts): Due 1 week after your draft video.

#### **LO #4: Interpretive Media**

- 1. Program Brochure (15 pts):** You will each be responsible for developing a program description and an image for the program brochure that will be distributed to the Schmeckle Reserve mailing list. The brochure will advertise each program with a date, time, meeting location, a concise interpretive description, and the presenter's name.
- 2. Facebook Post (10 pts):** Due 2 weeks prior to public program. Develop a concise, creative Facebook posting that encourages Schmeckle visitors to attend your program. This should include an image that represents your program.
- 3. Interpretive Media:** You will develop either an interpretive sign or print media piece for Schmeckle Reserve.
  - a. Media topic, format, theme development, statement of purpose, measurable objectives (20 pts)
  - b. Draft media design (30 pts)
  - c. Final media design (100 pts)

#### **LO #5: Evaluation**

- 1. Rehearsal Attendance (60 pts):** Attend and participate in the critique of all other class members' program rehearsals. The greatest learning usually occurs in the interactions at rehearsals where we can make suggestions to each other and brainstorm ideas with the pressure of an upcoming public program. It is your responsibility to attend all of these rehearsals, and notify the instructors as soon as possible if a conflict arises.
- 2. Program Attendance (70 pts):** Attend 7 of your classmates' public programs or view the final video and complete an evaluation.
- 3. Nature Notes Review (50 pts):** Watch 5 of your classmates' draft Nature Notes videos and complete an evaluation.
- 4. Nature Notes Review (50 pts):** Watch 5 of your classmates' final Nature Notes videos and complete an evaluation.
- 5. Critical Review of Individual Program (25 pts):** Due 1 week after your program video is posted. Write a 2-3 page paper to critique your public presentation based on your experience and the video.
- 6. Critical Review of Nature Notes video (25 pts):** Due 1 week after your program video is posted. Write a 2-3 page paper to critique your public presentation based on your experience and the video.
- 7. Peer Media Evaluation (20 pts):** Provide peer feedback on draft media designs.

#### **LO #6: Interpreting Difficult Topics**

- 1. Interpreting Difficult Topics training modules:** Participate in five training modules at the end of the semester, led by EE/I master's student Shelby Roback.

**Schedule: NRES 482 Environmental Interpretation Practicum – Fall 2020** *Subject to Change*

Date, Time Location	Class Topics
<b>Wed. Sept. 2</b> <b>9a-12p, Zoom</b>	Introductions Syllabus & required materials, Canvas details Learning outcomes Individual program format and topic ideas Interpretive themes
<b>Wed. Sept. 9</b> <b>9a-12p, Zoom</b>	Topics & theme discussion Program scheduling History of Schmeeckle
<b>Mon. Sept. 14</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Program planning: Logistics Brochure descriptions
<b>Mon. Sept. 21</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Finalize brochure Program evaluation
<b>Mon. Sept. 28</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals
<b>Mon. Oct. 5</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals <b>Public programs begin this week</b>
<b>Mon. Oct. 12</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals
<b>Mon. Oct. 19</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals
<b>Mon. Oct. 26</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals
<b>Mon. Nov. 2</b> <b>2-5p, Schmeeckle</b>	Dress rehearsals
<b>Mon. Nov. 9</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Interpreting Difficult Topics Module 1
<b>Mon. Nov. 16</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Interpreting Difficult Topics Module 2
<b>Mon. Nov. 23</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Interpreting Difficult Topics Module 3
<b>Mon. Nov. 30</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Interpreting Difficult Topics Module 4
<b>Mon. Dec. 7</b> <b>2-5p, Zoom</b>	Interpreting Difficult Topics Module 5