

# NRES 150: People, Resources & the Biosphere (3 credits)

UWSP at Marshfield (Fall 2020)  
Lecture: Asynchronously Online  
Discussion: W 12-12:50 pm; room 422 (theater)

**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Lee

office: 217-B Leopold Building  
phone: 389-6524  
email: llee@uwsp.edu  
office hours: tba (or by appointment)

**Required Texts:** *National Geographic Learning Reader: Green. 1<sup>st</sup> ed.* Wadsworth Cengage Learning.  
Additional Readings/Materials will be posted on Canvas

## Course Description & Objectives:

NRES 150 is an introductory course ideal for both CNR majors and non-majors. It examines global resource and environmental problems from a historic, socioeconomic, and biological perspective, as well as how interactions between these perspectives can create conflicts over natural resource use and sustainability. This will be done through a combination of lecture and discussion.

## GEP, AAS Designation

- GEP Designation: SS (Investigations – Social Science), ER (Environmental Responsibility)
- AAS Designation: ER (Environmental Responsibility)

Course Objectives: Students completing this course will attain varying levels of proficiency in their ability to:

1. demonstrate an appreciation of environmental science as an interdisciplinary science
2. describe and evaluate the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of natural resources and resource conflicts
3. identify and problem-solve the impact that environmental practices have on aquatic and terrestrial resources
4. explain how lifestyle choice influences sustainability

## Notes & Study Aids:

Every student has good intentions at the beginning of the year in terms of reading and studying. But, by the end of the semester, many books remain closed and unused. I know you'll get busy and want to blow off reading, but I expect you to do any assigned readings in a timely manner and come into discussion section ready to discuss them. This course will be taught using Canvas as an instructional aid. You should all be provided with a Canvas login and password and are given access to the NRES 150 Canvas site. All course material will be posted there, including lectures, objectives, exam review sheets, quizzes, exams, web links, assignments, etc. It is to your advantage to access and make use of this information. In the past, students who use it tend to "get more" out of the lectures and are better prepared for exams and assignments. If you are not familiar with Canvas, please see Canvas training resources here: <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx> and here: <https://uwstp.instructure.com/enroll/36GKLY>. You can log into Canvas directly the UWSP home page.

The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) offers free group, drop-in, and individual tutoring to support you in your biology classes. The tutors are UWSP students who have done well in their classes and who are here to share their successful study habits and biology content knowledge to help others succeed. Discussing biological concepts and processes together clarifies and solidifies knowledge, and the tutors are eager to study with you. For additional information please visit the website or contact Marie Janz, Academic Success Associate, email [mjanz@uwsp.edu](mailto:mjanz@uwsp.edu) or phone 715-898-6036.

**Communication Information:**

I am available in Zoom/Canvas without an appointment on the days/times above. Individual meetings can be arranged through an email request, phone call, or conversation directly before or after class. I do not hold normal office hours during the following weeks: First week of class, Thanksgiving, Finals Week. I will have additional “virtual office hours” in Canvas in the evening before each exam.

Although you can reach me by telephone or email, email is quicker and more efficient. Remember, some faculty receive as many as 100 emails per day. Please identify yourself (first and last name), as well as the class that you are in. Your email should be clear, concise, and professional so that your issues can be responded to effectively. Include the entire thread of an ongoing email conversation so that I can recall the history of your issue without searching for other emails you have sent.

**Covid Information:**

The lecture section of this class will be held asynchronously online. On Monday of each week, a recorded 2-part lecture will be available on Canvas for the week. The discussion section will be held face-to-face; however, alternate methods of attendance will be available to those students unable or unwilling to attend in person during class time. Students not attending the discussion session will be instructed on Canvas what they need to do that week to substitute for class attendance .

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.

Please monitor your own health each day using this screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor 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. 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.

**Assessment:**

Course grades: Your grade in this course is based on the following:

1. *Exams:* There will be 2 unit exams during the semester, each containing both lecture and discussion material. You will have the opportunity to improve your grade on **ONE** exam by reworking it as a homework assignment (see details in Canvas). A comprehensive final exam will be given during the assigned final exam period. All exams will be a combination of true/false, fill-in, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. All exams will be held in real time, through Canvas (see below).
2. *Quizzes:* Weekly quizzes will be posted on Canvas each Friday and will be due by the end of the day on Monday. Quizzes will cover information from the previous week’s lectures and discussion. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will be dropped. **Quizzes must be completed by their due dates!**
3. *Reading responses:* Each week, you will submit a written response to the reading assignment. It may be free-form, or I may give you a writing prompt. You may miss one “freebie” during the semester. The reading responses are due in Canvas at the beginning of class on Wednesday. Late reading responses will **not** be accepted (if you are not present in class, you must still submit into Canvas by class time).
4. *Assignments:* There will be several assignments due during the semester. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas on time – points will be deducted for late assignments. **All late assignments must be turned in before the next exam!**
5. Extra credit points will be available during the semester. Please do not ask for additional, individual extra credit assignments.

Final Grade Distribution: The final grade distribution will be as follows:

|               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 93-100% = A   | 80-82.9% = B- | 67-69.9% = D+ |
| 90-92.9% = A- | 77-79.9% = C+ | 60-66.9% = D  |
| 87-89.9% = B+ | 73-76.9% = C  | <60% = F      |
| 83-86.9% = B  | 70-72.9% = C- |               |

University-wide assessment: For the 2020-21 academic year, classes that fulfill outcomes at the Investigation Level of the UWSP [General Education Program](#) (GEP) will be assessed utilizing the GEP assessment portfolio process. The GEP Investigation Level includes courses that fulfill the Arts, Humanities, Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences [category learning outcomes](#). Because 2020-2021 assessment focuses on Arts, Humanities and Historical Perspectives, NRES 150 will not be formally assessed for the GEP this semester.

### **Course Attendance Policies:**

Under normal circumstances, attendance in lecture and discussion would help you to perform well on exams and would be expected at every class period. In this unusual semester, we are going to do the best we can. Because lectures will be online and asynchronous (one topic per week), I will not be taking attendance for lecture. You are expected to keep up with the online lectures, however, in order to do well on the weekly quizzes. The discussion on Wednesday is scheduled as a face-to-face class period. If you can attend in person, I do recommend it, as those interactions will help keep you engaged with the material. However, I understand if you cannot. During discussion sections, we will discuss the week's readings, do in-class activities, and occasionally watch videos. If you are unable or unwilling to attend the discussion sections, you will be provided with an alternate discussion activity as a substitute for class attendance. To accommodate any future contact tracing, assigned seating and attendance documentation will occur in discussion; no points will be tied to attendance, however.

Unit exams will take place during the regularly-scheduled discussion times, but will be taken through Canvas (so nobody needs to attend in person on those days). Please make every effort to be available to take the exam during those times. Alternate exam times will not be scheduled **unless** arrangements have been made with me personally. Because exams are closed-book/closed-computer, we will be using HonorLock for all exams to guard against academic misconduct. You can find a short description of HonorLock here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLSRgrBMz6c&feature=youtu.be>. Note that you will need a webcam in order to use HonorLock; please have your computer ready to go by the time of the first exam. If you need to borrow a laptop, a webcam, or space to take an exam, please contact the campus library at 715-898-6036 or [mjanz@uwsp.edu](mailto:mjanz@uwsp.edu).

### **Policy on Phones & Electronic Devices**

Research supports that having visual access to a cell phone diminishes our ability to learn. Checking social media, texts, emails, and messages is unprofessional and disrespectful to our class community. Therefore, phones are not to be used during face-to-face class sessions unless I instruct you to take them out for a class-related exercise. If you must be available for work/family, please leave phones in your pocket on vibrate. Laptops, tablets and other devices may be used for the sole function of following along with lecture or other course-related activities, and will be required during some discussion sessions. Foreign-language translators (but not dictionary-type electronics with internet capabilities) may be used. Violations of any electronics rules will result in these privileges being revoked.

### **Accommodation of Religious Beliefs & Disabilities**

It is UW System policy ([UWS 22](#)) to reasonably accommodate your sincerely held religious beliefs with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. Any student who cannot be present for a scheduled exam or discussion session due to a religious observance will be provided with an alternate way of fulfilling that particular course requirement, providing the student notifies me of the scheduling conflict at the beginning of the semester.

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. I am always willing to work (to the extent allowed by the nature of the course) with students who require special accommodations because of disability. If accommodations are needed, please let me know and contact the appropriate office to complete an Accommodations Request form.

### **Emergency Procedures:**

- In the event of a **medical emergency call 9-1-1**. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.
- In the event of a **tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room** without window exposure at [first floor Leopold hallway]. Avoid wide-span structures (gyms, pools or large classrooms).
- In the event of a **fire alarm, evacuate the building** in a calm manner. Leave door nearest Student Services and meet near Marauder statue. Notify instructor or emergency response personnel of any missing individuals.
- **Active Shooter – RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.** If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

### **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 are in need of 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.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

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. UWS 14 defines academic misconduct as any "action which a student: 1) seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation; 2) uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise; 3) forges or falsifies academic documents or records; 4) intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others; 5) engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; 6) assists other students in any of these acts." UWS 14 allows for disciplinary sanctions that range from an oral reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University. You can obtain a copy of the full academic misconduct policy through the Student Services office. If I observe academic misconduct, or if suspicions of cheating are reported to me, I will request that the identified parties come to my office to discuss the situation, and the procedures set out in UWS 14 will be followed. I recognize that the rules regarding academic misconduct can sometimes be confusing for students with respect to specific assignments or course work. For example, I encourage students to work together on assignments, but I require each student submit the work in his/her own words – no copying from your friends, and no all submitting the same word-for word assignment! If you have questions, I encourage you to come and see me before the assignment is submitted. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the UW System policy will not serve as a valid excuse for academic misconduct.

**Problems? Questions?**

I hope that you will reach out to me early on if you have any problems or questions. It is much more useful to deal with problems early in the semester, rather than wait until a few days short of the final and expect me to work miracles (my pet peeve). Please feel free to contact me as much or as often as you would like. Although I have office hours listed (where you are my first priority), I am usually available at any non-class time to meet with students – please take advantage of this. My main purpose for being here is to help you learn about environmental science!!

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| <b>WEEK</b> | <b>TOPIC</b>                           | <b>ASSIGNED TEXT READING</b>         | <b>DISCUSSION ACTIVITY</b>                                     |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1           | Introduction to Course                 | The Syllabus                         | Introduction to Course   |
| 2           | History & Sustainability               | Saving Energy: It Starts at Home     | Ecological Footprint   |
| 3           | Attitudes & Economics                  | Last of the Amazon                   | Cost-Benefit Analysis  |
| 4           | Human Population Issues                | The Tragedy of the Commons*          | 6 Billion People Activity                                      |
| 5           | Natural Resources: Terrestrial Systems | Redwoods Point the Way               | Discussion: Ecosystem Value                                    |
| 6           | Natural Resources: Aquatic Systems     | Water Pressure<br>Drying of the West | Case Study: Florida Everglades<br><i>Human Populations due</i> |
| 7           | Agriculture 1                          | The End of Plenty                    | Rachel Carson video  |
| 8           | Agriculture 2                          | Silent Spring*                       | <b>EXAM 1</b><br>(Weeks 1-7)                                   |
| 9           | Wildlife 1                             | Still Waters                         | Extinctions Activity/Discussion                                |
| 10          | Wildlife 2                             | Sand County Almanac*                 | Asian Carp Activity  |
| 11          | Energy                                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Grid        | Frac Sand<br><i>Extinctions Assignment due</i>                 |
| 12          | Pollution Issues (Air and Water)       | The Gulf of Oil                      | Pollution Control Discussion                                   |
| 13          | Global Climate Change                  | The Big Melt                         | On your own: Global Climate Change                             |
| 14          | Waste Management Issues                | High-Tech Trash                      | <b>EXAM 2</b><br>(Weeks 8-13)                                  |
| 15          | Environmental Health                   | TBA                                  | Course Wrap-Up (Zoom meeting)<br><i>Issue assignment due</i>   |
| 16          | Final Exam: TBA                        |                                      |  |

Please note: optional online resources will be provided for each topic on Canvas

\* Supplemental reading posted on Canvas