NRES 389/589: Methods in Social Science
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm in TNR 361
Fall 2022 Syllabus

Course Instructor

Dr. Kendra Liddicoat
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Course Catalog Description

Connect natural resources with people using a variety of problem analysis skills.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students in the human dimensions of natural resource management with an introduction to social science research methods. The growing need for understanding the role of individuals, communities, and society in shaping the natural environment has led to a greater emphasis on natural resource social science and providing training in the research methods to support these efforts. It is an exciting time to enter this arena as many research and community initiatives are combining the efforts of natural and social scientists to achieve better conservation outcomes, promote sustainable behaviors, and increase awareness and understanding of the complex environmental challenges facing our society.

Learning Objectives

Developing your research skills is a continuous process that is enhanced by each opportunity to expand the tools available to you by building your understanding of the methods that drive this work. It is important to know that many of our natural resource social science challenges cannot be addressed solely by applying one set of research tools, but rather it is common that researchers apply the best set of methods -- often using a mixed methods approach -- to assist them in achieving their research objectives. Over the course of the semester students will cultivate a number of professional skills based on the following objectives:
1. To understand the role of human dimensions research in natural resource management.
2. To understand the common phases of developing both theory-driven research and program evaluation.
3. To conceptually model the relationship between social variables and understand the types of research methods available to explore these relationships.
4. To develop a basic understanding of analysis tools and techniques available for quantitative and qualitative data sets.

Course Resources

Text rental: O'Leary, Z. (2017). *The essential guide to doing your research project (3rd ed).* Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
Canvas: Selected articles and chapters. Lecture PowerPoints posted at the instructor's discretion.

Learning Assessments

Assignment	Points
Attendance and Participation	30
CITI Human Subjects Training (> 80%)	15
Reading Questions (RQs) (10 required)	20
Research Proposal	
Research Questions	5
Annotated Bibliography	10
Methods Description	5
Survey or Interview Questions	5
Literature Presentation and Feedback	10
In-class Exercises	14
Exams	36
Total	*150*

Graduate students in NRES 589 will complete an additional project in consultation with the professor.

All submissions should be submitted through Canvas unless otherwise specified. Professionally presented papers are clear and cohesive, have been checked for spelling and grammatical errors, and are submitted by the deadline to earn full credit. Late reading questions will only be accepted for two days after they are due and will earn up to half credit. Other assignments will be accepted late with the following deductions: first week = -10% of possible points, second week and after = -20% of possible points.

Course grade calculation:
Total Points Earned   x   100   =   percentage
      150

Grading Scale

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

Participation Expectations

In order to help you gain as much as possible from the course, I will create an environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, students will be active course participants, arrive on time, be prepared for each class by completing assignments by the designated dates, be dressed appropriately for going outdoors when necessary, and refrain from cell phone use during class. Please turn phones off or set to silent. Use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams or other assessments except for any planned online assessments. Use of electronic devices for cheating or other academic misconduct is covered in the University Handbook and follows the same procedures for academic misconduct that occurs without the use of technology.

PowerPoint notes may or may not be posted at the instructor's discretion. Students are expected to take notes in class. Computers and tablets may be used for note taking with permission from the instructor but are not to be used for social media, web surfing or other activities that are not related to the class during class times. Lecture and discussion classes are tobacco free environments. Please wait to use tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco (chew) until outside of class.

COVID-19 and Health Precautions

We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the UWSP's website related to COVID. The CDC website provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. More information on expectations and your rights and responsibilities as a student can be found on the Dean of Students page at https://www.uwsp.edu/dos.

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx.

Disability Resources and Accommodations

In accordance with federal law and UW System policies, UWSP strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you need accommodations for a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please visit with the Disability Resource Center to determine reasonable accommodations and notify faculty. After notification, please discuss your accommodations with me so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **DRC contact information:** drc@uwsp.edu; (715) 346-3365; 108 Collins Classroom Center (CCC).