NRES 389: Methods in Social Science
Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30-10:45, TNR 254
Spring 2020 Syllabus

Course Instructor
Dr. Kendra Liddicoat
Office: TNR 235
Contact Information: (715) 346-2028, kliddico@uwsp.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12, Thursdays 1-3, other times by appointment

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.

Course Policies
In order to help you gain as much as possible from the course, we need to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, you will be an active course participant, arrive on time, refrain from cell phone use during class, and be prepared for each class by completing assignments by the designated dates. If something comes up that interferes with your participation in class, please let me know. One excused absence from class will be allowed with no point deduction if arranged prior to absence.

Learning Assessments

Assignment	Points
Attendance and Participation	30
CITI Human Subjects Training (> 80%)	12
Research Summary	10
Reading Questions (RQs) (10 required)	20
Class research project	10
In-class exercises	10
Case study presentation	13
Exams (3)	45
Total	*150*

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+	

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.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (the Library). You can also find more information here: https://www.uwsp.edu/datc.