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NRES 392: Conservation Law Enforcement Theory & Principles (Fall 2023)

Lecture:	Mon Wed	3:30 – 4:45 PM	Room: TNR 352
Discussion 1:	Thu	10:00 – 11:50 AM	Room: TNR 254
Discussion 2:	Thu	2:00 – 3:50 PM	Room: TNR 255

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Course Description:

The intent of this course is to provide an overview of what conservation law enforcement (CLE) is, e.g., conservation officers, park rangers, special agents/investigators, and how CLE officers operate. This course will cover: CLE history, organizations, legal aspects, hiring requirements, patrol strategies/techniques, report writing, non-law enforcement duties, and future challenges. The course will focus heavily on state-level CLE but will explore federal and international aspects as well. The course is equally designed for those desiring a career in natural resources law enforcement or those desiring an in-depth understanding of the function and challenges of law enforcement in contemporary natural resources management.

Course Outcomes:

1. You will be able to demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts of law enforcement including constitutional law, police organization, search and seizure, investigation, communication, use of force, discretion, and community policing.
2. You will be able to identify the various organizations involved in conservation law enforcement in the United States and describe the types of enforcement they are involved in.
3. You will be able demonstrate an understanding of relevant natural resources laws and law enforcement strategies in a variety of areas, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational vehicle, Federal, water regulations enforcement, etc., and develop field skills in these areas.
4. You will develop and demonstrate oral and written communication, and critical thinking skills.

Readings:

1. Suttmoeller, M.J.; and M.T. Rossler. 2022. Conservation Law Enforcement. Carolina Academic Press, Durham, NC. (textbook; **required**)
2. Borkovich, J. 2017. Wildlife 911: On Patrol. Arbutus Press, Traverse City, MI. (supplemental; **required**)
3. Ferguson, J.S. 2019. 99 Things Every Law Enforcement Officer Should Know. Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc., Flushing, NY. (supplemental; **required**)

Material from readings is testable.

Guest Speakers:

I will be inviting several guest speakers to speak to the class throughout the semester. My intent is to have speakers who are active in unique areas of conservation law enforcement come in and speak about

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their first-hand experiences. As well, there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and potentially make some future contacts. Material from guest lectures is testable

Discussion/Lab:

My purpose for the discussion period is to provide you with more hands-on, practical experience of concepts we discuss in class or techniques that might be beneficial to you in a conservation law enforcement career (see schedule for weekly topics). My intent is to have most of these experiences outdoors in a field situation, e.g., Schmeeckle Reserve, since that is the environment you will have to work in. As such, be prepared to be in the field for discussion and dress for the weather.

Field Scenarios:

We are planning a field scenario experience which will give you the opportunity to participate in simulated conservation warden field contacts (e.g., fishing, hunting, etc.) supervised and coached by actual Wisconsin DNR conservation wardens. These scenarios will provide you first-hand experience in the challenges involved with applying theory to practice and the human dimensions of law enforcement. They will closely resemble the type of scenarios used to train and evaluate field and recruit wardens. Scenarios are tentatively scheduled for **Oct. 19** at Schmeeckle Reserve.

Grading Scheme:

Your course grade will be based on the following components:

- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Final Exam (**optional**): 20%
- Quizzes/Assignments: 10%
- Discussion/Lab: 30%
 - 15% participation/discussion
 - 15% lab exams

Grade	%
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	Below 60

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and an **optional** final exam. The final is cumulative. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero unless I excuse it. See “Due Dates/Late Policy” for absence policy. If you have a valid excuse for missing an exam, I will either reschedule your exam or just double the score of your other midterm exam.

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Quizzes/Discussions/Assignments:

I will assign discussions, quizzes, and other assignments (e.g., case studies, scenarios, current events, book discussions) in class from time to time to reinforce learning.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for lab/discussion. You have one “free absence”; use it wisely.

Communication: Students are expected to routinely check their UWSP email and the Canvas course site for updates and materials.

Due Dates/Late Policy: All assignments are due on the date indicated in class. The first week they are late, your grade will be reduced by 10%; the second week they are late, your grade will be reduced by 20%. You will receive a zero for assignments turned in more than two weeks late. All exams must be taken on the date scheduled or you will receive zero credit.

Course Effort/Study: I believe being a full-time University student is akin to having a full-time job. A full-time job generally equates to at least 40 hours of work per week. You will only spend approximately a third of this time in class. You must spend the additional time on *your own* studying, reading, completing assignments, etc. To get the most out of this course and your University experience (i.e., grades, knowledge, skills, etc.), *you* must put in the time outside of class. A good rule of thumb is to plan on spending two hours of outside preparation for every hour you spend in class. Budget this time into your weekly/monthly planner.

Academic Integrity: 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 the “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the Community Rights and Responsibilities document, UWSP Chapter 14. This can be accessed by viewing page 11 of the document at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>

Lecture materials and recordings for NRES 392 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Professionalism: A professional is competent, reliable, respectful, and has integrity. It is a necessary attribute for most careers, particularly law enforcement. It is never too early to begin developing a professional mindset, e.g., being on time with the appropriate equipment, being competent and knowledgeable in your field, completing assignments correctly and on time, being respectful to others, etc. **I may deduct up to 5% of your final course grade for lack of professionalism**, e.g., absences, profanity, disrespect, sleeping, disrupting class with unsolicited texting, and talking, etc.

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Disability Policy: Please discuss with me as soon as possible any concerns you may have regarding a disability, so we can accommodate you as per UWSP policy.

Emergency Procedures:

If you see or hear something, say something.

In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1 or use Red Emergency Phone. 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. See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span structures (gyms, pools or large classrooms).

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at location 200 yards from building. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter/Code React – Run/Escapes, 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.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.

(Source: UWSP Risk Management Dept.)

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Tentative schedule:

	Topics	Reading	Discussion/lab
Week 1 <i>Sep. 5-8</i>	Intro to the Course	CLE- Ch. 1	Welcome to CLE/WILENET
Week 2 <i>Sep. 11-15</i>	CLE History	CLE- Ch. 2	Positioning/Basic Contacts
Week 3 <i>Sep. 18-22</i>	CLE Today	CLE- Ch. 3	Basic Field Craft
Week 4 <i>Sep. 25-29</i>	CLE Organizations (<i>no class; read on your own</i>)	CLE- Ch. 4	Land Navigation (<i>virtual</i>)
Week 5 <i>Oct. 2-6</i>	Legal Aspects of CLE	CLE- Ch. 5	Legal Scenarios
Week 6 <i>Oct. 9-13</i>	Job Entry Requirements (Ryan Piorkowski, USFS, Oct. 9); Chris Thielman, Oct. 11)	CLE- Ch. 6	Surveillance Exercise
Week 7 <i>Oct. 16-20</i>	-Exam 1 (Oct. 16) -Report Writing		Warden Scenarios
Week 8 <i>Oct. 23-27</i>	CLE Functions & Patrol Strategies	CLE- Ch. 7	Report Writing; Lab Exam 1
Week 9 <i>Oct. 30-Nov. 3</i>	Non-LE Duties	CLE- Ch. 8	Communication Skills
Week 10 <i>Nov. 6-10</i>	Fishing Enforcement (Nov. 6- GLIFWC guest speaker)		Interviewing
Week 11 <i>Nov. 13-17</i>	Hunting Enforcement	WI DNR regulations/website	Fishing enforcement
Week 12 <i>Nov. 20-24</i>	-Environmental Enforcement (Stefan Fabian, WIDNR) <i>-no class</i>	WI DNR regulations/website	<i>No Lab- Thanksgiving</i>
Week 13 <i>Nov. 27-Dec. 1</i>	Trapping Enforcement	WI DNR website	Hunting Enforcement
Week 14 <i>Dec. 4-8</i>	-Exam 2 (Dec. 4) -Recreational Vehicles	WI DNR website	Trapping Enforcement
Week 15 <i>Dec. 11-15</i>	-The Future of CLE -Wrap up/Review	CLE- Ch. 9	Lab Exam #2
Week 16 <i>Dec. 21</i>	Final Exam (optional) Thursday (5-7 PM)		Final Exam