NRES 484 / 684: Natural Resource Planning

Dr. Anna Haines
Office: TNR 205
Phone: 346-2386
Email: ahaines@uwsp.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
(please feel free to contact me by email with what you want to discuss
and I will arrange a time to meet by Zoom)

Course Meeting Times

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30am – 10:45am, On-line synchronous[1]

Meeting URL:	https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/91297250646?pwd=Sjd6alBONkt4TC8xMWFjNlN6WDA2dz09
Meeting ID:	912 9725 0646
Passcode:	530472

Course Description

The constant push and pull of competing priorities for natural resources represents a critical challenge for conservation professionals. Developing your ability to navigate national, state, and local policy contexts is important for all planners seeking to work with communities to find solutions to challenges they are facing in managing their resources. This class will examine the planning process used on public lands in contrast to private lands and focus on a variety of techniques and tools used by government (local, state and federal) to address various natural resource issues.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to introduce the concepts, methods, and techniques necessary for planning and policy to students to develop the skills necessary to successfully understand the decision context within which communities develop plans to resolve natural resource challenges. Over the course of the semester students will cultivate professional skills based on the following objectives:

1. To enhance knowledge about society's ongoing struggle in balancing its ability to use land and protect natural resources.
2. To understand concepts and techniques of planning at the federal and state level for public lands.

[1] Some language in this syllabus pertains to face to face interaction and may not pertain to the online nature of this course.

3. To understand planning processes for managing natural resources at all scales for both public and private lands.

4. Understand state and federal regulations that pertain to planning including NEPA.

5. To visually communicate ideas through conceptual maps, site assessment graphics, and photo-visualizations in a manner that captures the imagination of the public.

6. Develop and practice communication skills.

Readings

There is no text for this course. Readings are available in Canvas or will be distributed in class. The course schedule identifies the readings for which all students should be prepared to discuss in class on the date the readings are assigned.

Assignments and Grading

The quality of the work that you produce during this semester should reflect your highest effort as many of the course assignment are designed to support the development of your professional portfolio.

I. Readings and Discussion: This course expects all students to read, digest, and comment on the readings within a discussion board on Canvas. These discussions are critical to a more complete understanding of natural resource planning and it should continue to build your writing and critical thinking skills.

II. Skill Development: You will focus on using planning software (ESRI for GIS, Adobe Photoshop and SketchUp) to enhance your ability to communicate your ideas in a way that is accessible, informative, and captures the imagination of the public. The activities included in this project will focus on practicing your skills from previous classes, while introducing new software.

> **Note: Course pre-requisites provide students with experience using these software programs, as a result all students are expected to complete these assignments. This means that if you lack experience or have never used this software before ***you will need to seek out introductory resources on your own*** – our campus currently provides access to software training support through LinkedIn Learning. You also may seek help from each other and from a volunteer TA.

III. Field Exercises: Normally, I take everyone on a few field trips, but alas, that's not possible. However, I would like everyone to get in the field to explore and think through some questions that I pose for the particular field trip you will take on your own or with others. These field trips are designed to help you explore, in a systematic way, the kinds of public lands that you may deal with in the future.

III. Plan Evaluation Project (individual):

Evaluation: Students will choose two watershed or groundwater plans to evaluate from anywhere in the U.S. The focus of the plan must be on a watershed or ground watershed, <u>not</u> focused on a particular use, habitat, or animal. Each student will compare and contrast two plans. A set of plan documents must be available for you to examine.

Lightning Talk: You will briefly present your plans, your evaluation of them, and your site analysis and visualizations in class.

IV. Site Plan Project (pairs):

Site Analysis and Visualizations: You will choose a project from a Wisconsin natural resource plan (state forest, park, natural resource area, or county forest or park) to practice your GIS, Photoshop and SketchUp skills. You will create a site analysis for a new or revised camping area, trail, or other project identified in the plan. You will create a base map using GIS, create a visualization of the site using Photoshop, and use SketchUp to create another visualization of the project.

Lightning Talk: You will briefly present your plans, your evaluation of them, and your site analysis and visualizations in class.

V. Ice Age Trail and EIS Project (groups):

Site Analysis and Visualization: We will be working to understand federal policy / regulations designed to protect the environment, while also breaking down the federal planning process into comprehensible pieces and communicating this information for a public audience through the use of Photoshop and SketchUp. You will use PowerPoint or some other similar software to create a final product that will communicate your findings to stakeholders.

Lightning Talk: You will briefly present your plans, your evaluation of them, and your site analysis and visualizations in class.

If you are taking this course for graduate credit, there is an additional assignment usually a 20-page paper focused on some aspect of your thesis or project. Please see me at my office – TNR 205 as soon as possible after the course begins.

Summary Assignments/Points

Due Date	Group or Individual Assignment	Brief Description	Points
See Schedule and Assignment	Individual	Reading Discussions in Canvas	150
	Individual	Skill Development (Adobe Photoshop and SketchUp)	100
	Individual	Field Exercises	75
	Individual	**Plan Evaluation Project**	
		Evaluation	100
		Lightning Talk	25
	Pairs	**Site Plan Project**	
		Site Analysis and Visualization	100
		Lightning Talk	50
	Group	**Ice Age Trail and EIS Project** (pairs)	
		Site Analysis and Visualization poster	150
		Lightning Talk	50
	Individual	Class Participation	100
		Total	**900**

Attendance & Participation

Class attendance is mandatory except with prior agreement (this includes the required field trips). Unexcused absence from class negatively affects your learning and your final grade will be reduced by 15 points for each absence during the semester. In addition, students with repeated unexcused absences during the semester may be removed from project teams and required to complete the assignment individually. You will need to attend class, participate either through talking and/or active listening, and you must have your video on if at all possible, during class.

I will not tolerate free riding. Learning to work in groups isn't always easy, but developing this ability is critical to a future career in natural resources. I will not tolerate a group member not completing their share of the workload but sharing the benefits of the group. If there is a problem with the group dynamics, it is imperative that you call it to my attention at the earliest possible time. If your group would like to meet with me for assistance on a group project, I will make myself readily available. If evidence of a free riding problem arises, we will attempt to address it at a group meeting. If the problem persists, the free rider will be removed from the group by the instructor and will receive 0 points for the project.

Academic Integrity, D2L, and turnitin.com

It is important for students to read and understand the academic honesty policy of UWSP. In addition to university policies any attempt to cheat, plagiarize, or take credit for work that is not your own will result in a zero on the assignment. As you may encounter a number of complicated questions regarding how to cite sources of information (e.g. spatial data, images, or community data), I encourage you to discuss any questions you may have about citation, paraphrasing, or related topics with me prior to turning in an assignment. In addition, assignments turned in through D2L drop box will be linked to turnitin.com – a program that compares your work to other sources to check for originality.

Accessibility Statement

If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability Services office with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. 103 Student Services Center, (715) 346-3365; TTY (715) 346-3363; www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/studentinfo.htm

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Due Dates
(W) 9/2	Introduction to NRP		
(W) 9/9	Framework of Planning and Ecological Planning Method	Steiner, Chapter 1	Canvas discussion
(M) 9/14	NR Planning	Practical Ecology: Humans Plan	Canvas discussion
(W) 9/16Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 1 and 2	Due on 9/28
(M) 9/21	Identifying Issues and Goals	Steiner, Chapter 2	Canvas discussion
(W) 9/23	**On your own FIELD TRIP: see Canvas for the exercise**		Due 9/25 on Canvas
(M) 9/28	Planning Options and Choices	Steiner, Chapter 6	Canvas discussion
(W) 9/30Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 3 and 4	Due 10/12
(M) 10/5	Scenario Planning	Choice of reading – see Canvas for more details	Canvas discussion
(W) 10/7	**On your own FIELD TRIP: see Canvas for the exercise**		Due 10/9 on Canvas
(M) 10/12	Planning Concepts and Design	Steiner, Chapter 9	Canvas discussion
(W) 10/14Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 5	Due 10/26
(M) 10/19	Does Planning Matter?	Effective Protection of Open Space: Does Planning Matter?	Canvas discussion
(W) 10/21Δ	Plan Evaluation Lightning Talks		Due 10/21 paper and LT slides
(M) 10/26	Ownership and barriers of process and plans	Exploring the Concept of Ownership in NRP and Barriers to Effective NRP	Canvas discussion
(W) 10/28Δ	Skills/Workday	Activity 6 and Portfolio	Due 11/9
(M) 11/2	Public Lands	Managing Public Lands – CQ and Federal Land Management Agency – see Canvas for more details and Federal Land Management Agency – see Canvas for more details	Canvas discussion

(W) 11/4	**On your own FIELD TRIP: see Canvas for the exercise**		Due 11/6 on Canvas
(M) 11/9	EIS and Planning	NEPA Citizen's Guide – p.1-19.	Canvas discussion
(W) 11/11Δ	Skills/Workday		
(M) 11/16	Site Plan Project Lightning Talks		Due 11/18 pdf and LT slides
(W) 11/18Δ	Workday		
(M) 11/23	Conservation Easements and Property Rights	Private Ownership of Land	Canvas discussion
(W) 11/25Δ	Workday		
(M) 11/30	Conservation Easements	Land Management Restrictions and Options for Change in Perpetual CEs	Canvas discussion
(W) 12/2Δ	Workday		
(M) 12/7	Conservation Easements	Land Trusts and Ces: Who is Conserving What for Whom?	Canvas discussion
(W) 12/9	Workday		
(T) 12/17 10:15am-12:15pm	EIS Lightning Talks		Due 12/17 posters and LT slides

Δ***You will need to remote access to a computer and the ACL or CPS 107. Directions for remote access:*** ***https://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ComputerLabs/Online-Access-For-Computer-Labs.aspx.***