

NRES 494: Conservation Law Enforcement Investigations (spring 2021)

Lecture: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday; 2:00-2:50pm* (online, asynchronous)

**course is asynchronous; class times are when we would meet in person during non-COVID times and are just provided as a guide to help you schedule your time*

Instructor: Dr. Michael Rader

Contact Information: TNR 378, mrader@uwsp.edu, 715-346-2876

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00am, or by appointment (phone call or Zoom)

Course Description: Overview of the law enforcement investigatory process with particular application to conservation law enforcement. Discussion of representative conservation law enforcement violations and case handling from preliminary investigation to prosecution. The course will concentrate on developing your law enforcement problem-solving and communication skills through case-study analysis. The course will emphasize student competence in statutory knowledge, elements of violations, legal requirements, obtaining and handling evidence, report writing, search warrants, interviews, and oral communication skills. Report writing is a strong emphasis in this class.

Course Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Locate statutes/administrative code for natural resource violations and determine the elements of the violation.
2. Determine types of evidence required to prosecute violations and determine the best methods to legally obtain and handle such evidence.
3. Write effective law enforcement reports that describe complaints, investigations, interviews, and search warrants.
4. Communicate orally in an effective and professional manner in simulated law enforcement situations such as investigative briefings, interviews, and courtroom testimony.

Required Readings: There is one required textbook for the course. Students will be responsible for readings assigned in class, through Canvas, etc. These are testable material. Required & recommended texts, and background material include:

1. **Biggs, Michael. 2015. Just the facts: investigative report writing. 5th edition. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Required)**
2. Wisconsin Department of Justice. 2009. Wisconsin law enforcement officers criminal law handbook. Wisconsin Department of Justice, Madison, WI.
<https://cdm16119.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p267601coll4/id/6629>

3. Wisconsin Department of Justice. 2017. Physical evidence handbook. Wisconsin Department of Justice, Crime Laboratory Bureau, Madison, WI.
<https://wilenet.org/html/crime-lab/physevbook/index.html>

Grading:

Grade	%
A+	97-100
A	93-96
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	65-66
F	Below 65

****I will not adjust your grade up at the end of the semester just because you are “close” to the next grade. I do not give extra credit at the end of the semester. You must do the work during the semester to earn the grade you want and are capable of. I will round up from .5 to the next higher whole number.***

Grade Components:

Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	20%
Case Activity Report:	10%
Search Warrant:	10%
Presentation:	10%
Case studies/participation:	30%

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. The final is cumulative. See “Due Dates/Late Policy” for absence policy.

Case Activity Report/Search Warrant: Students will write a case activity report and search warrant, due weeks 7 & 14, respectively. Additional instructions will be provided.

Presentation: Student teams will be assigned a presentation to be given week 14 or 15. Teams will be comprised of approximately 3 students. Time limit = 15 minutes. The topic should relate to conservation law enforcement investigations or law enforcement investigations in general: e.g., current events, case studies, techniques, history, etc. Instructor approval of thesis required. Visual aids are expected. Additional instructions will be provided.

Case studies/participation: Each week on Thursday (starting Week 5) we will analyze a law enforcement case assigned to you the prior Monday (see Schedule). You must prepare for each case study prior to class and be prepared to discuss the case in Canvas. Generally, you will be assigned some questions to answer for each week's assigned reading, and then you will post responses to classmate's posts. More detailed instructions to follow. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion each week. Thirty percent of your course grade is dependent on your discussion participation. After each discussion assignment, you will be assigned a grade of 0-100 points (100 = **Excellent**- above & beyond what was required ; 85- **Good**- mastery of the material; 75 = **Satisfactory**- deficient in some aspect; 65 = **Unsatisfactory**- seriously deficient in multiple aspects; 55 = **Fail**- incomplete/unworthy of credit; 0 = **Zero**- not completed, no work turned in).

Attendance: Attendance in class is not required due to the current Covid situation. You are expected to fully participate in the course, e.g., view lectures, participate in discussions, etc., and getting a good grade in the course is usually dependent on that. Lecture will be entirely online (asynchronous) but will follow a weekly schedule that you need to keep up with in Canvas.

Communication: I expect students to check their UWSP email and the CANVAS course site routinely for updates and materials.

Due Dates/Late Policy: All assignments are due on the specified due date. Late assignments will incur a **5% penalty per day they are late. *You are responsible for your own time management and keeping up with due dates.*** Illness, family emergency, etc., may be cause for extending a due date if I am notified **prior** to the due date (email and voicemail have date and time stamps) and you can **document** (e.g., Dr.'s note) your absence.

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 494 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 gear, being competent and knowledgeable of 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.**

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.

COVID Precautions

Face Coverings:

- 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. *Other Guidance:*

- Please monitor your own health each day using the screening tool on the UWSP homepage. 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).

- o 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.

Tentative Schedule:

		Topic	Reading	Assignments
Week 1 1/25-1/29	<i>Mon</i>	Syllabus/Introductions		
	<i>Tue</i>	Investigation Basics	Biggs, Ch. 1	
	<i>Thu</i>	Investigatory Process	USDOJ Crime Scene Investigation Guide	
Week 2 2/1-2/5	<i>Mon</i>	The Rules of Narrative Writing	Biggs, Ch. 2	
	<i>Tue</i>	Legal Background	WI Criminal Law Handbook	
	<i>Thu</i>	Note Taking	Biggs, Ch. 3	
Week 3 2/8-2/12	<i>Mon</i>	Court Preparation & Testimony		
	<i>Tue</i>	Describing Persons & Property	Biggs, Ch. 4	
	<i>Thu</i>	Physical Evidence 1	Evidence Handbook	
Week 4 2/15-2/19	<i>Mon</i>	Physical Evidence 2	Evidence Handbook	
	<i>Tue</i>	Follow-up Investigations		
	<i>Thu</i>	TBA		
Week 5 2/22-2/26	<i>Mon</i>	Solid Waste Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Crime Reports	Biggs, Ch. 5	
	<i>Thu</i>	Practice Case: Solid Waste		Practice Case
Week 6 3/1-3/5	<i>Mon</i>	Fishing Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Arrest Reports	Biggs, Ch. 6	
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #1: Fishing		Case #1
Week 7 3/8-3/12	<i>Mon</i>	Baiting/Feeding Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Writing the Interview	Biggs, Ch. 7	Case Activity Report
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #2: Baiting/Feeding		Case #2
Week 8 3/15-3/19	<i>Mon</i>	Hunting Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	Midterm Exam due (take home)

	<i>Tue</i>	Interview & Interrogation 1		
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #3: Hunting		Case #3
3/20-3/28		SPRING BREAK		
Week 9 3/29-4/2	<i>Mon</i>	Hunting Accidents	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Interview & Interrogation 2		
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #4: Hunting Accident		Case #4
Week 10 4/5-4/9	<i>Mon</i>	Trapping Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Interview & Interrogation 3		
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #5: Trapping		Case #5
Week 11 4/12-4/16	<i>Mon</i>	Water Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Writing Search Warrants	Biggs, Ch. 8	
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #6: Water Violation		Case #6
Week 12 4/19-4/23	<i>Mon</i>	Forestry Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Issues in Writing 1	Biggs, Ch. 9	
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #7: Forestry		Case #7
Week 13 4/26-4/30	<i>Mon</i>	Recreational Vehicle Accidents	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	
	<i>Tue</i>	Issues in Writing 2	Biggs, Ch. 9	
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #8: Rec. Vehicles		Case #8
Week 14 5/3-5/7	<i>Mon</i>	Park Violations	WI Legislative website; DNR bond book	Search Warrant
	<i>Tue</i>	Presentations		Presentations
	<i>Thu</i>	Case #9: Parks		Case #9
Week 15 5/10-5/14	<i>Mon</i>	Presentations		Presentations
	<i>Tue</i>	Presentations		Presentations
	<i>Thu</i>	Evals, Review		

Updated 01-22-2021

Week 16 5/17-5/21	<i>Mon</i>	FINAL EXAM 5/17, Mon.	FINAL EXAM
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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/Escape, 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.)