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## **NRES 494: Conservation Law Enforcement Investigations (spring 2024)**

**Lecture:** Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday; 3:00-3:50pm, TNR 352

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Rader

**Contact Information:** TNR 378, [mrader@uwsp.edu](mailto:mrader@uwsp.edu), 715-346-2876

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00am, or by appointment

**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.
5. Use critical thinking and problem solving skills to investigate natural resource scenarios.

**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 materials:

1. Bandiero, A. 2021. *Bulletproof Report Writing- A Field Guide for Police Officers*. Blue to Gold, LLC, Spokane, WA. (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://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/clab-forms/2021\\_physical-evidence-handbook-2017.pdf](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/clab-forms/2021_physical-evidence-handbook-2017.pdf)

**Grading:**

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	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:**

Quizzes (2)	20%
Final exam	20%
Briefings	20%
Writing assignments	20%
Peer reviews	10%
Mock trial	10%

**Quizzes:** Two midterm quizzes will be given to assess what you’ve learned after learning modules 1 and 2.

**Final Exam:** There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the semester to assess what you’ve learned overall throughout the semester.

**Briefings:** To develop your oral communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, student teams of 3-4 students will teach a topic in Module 3 to the class and lead the case study discussion for that week. Further instructions and a sign-up sheet will be provided in class.

**Writing assignments:** Students will be assigned in-class and homework assignments throughout the semester.

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**Peer reviews:** You will complete periodic peer reviews of student presentations and written assignments to develop your critical thinking, oral, and written communication skills. Peer reviews will be graded for quality by the instructor and then provided to the students that were reviewed.

**Mock trial:** We will conduct a mock trial at the end of the semester to develop your knowledge of the trial process and to develop your oral communications skills. Students will be assigned roles to play and must attend all four days of this block of instruction.

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is required. You are expected to fully participate in the course, e.g., attend lectures, participate in discussions, etc., and getting a good grade in the course is usually dependent on that. You will receive only two excused absences (see Due Dates/Late Policy); use them wisely. You are responsible for all missed material.

**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 **10% penalty the first week they are late and a 20% penalty the second week they are late. Late assignments will not be accepted after two weeks. *You are responsible for your own time management and keeping up with due dates.*** Serious medical or mental health emergency (self, parent, spouse, child), death of immediate family member (sibling, spouse, child, parent), military deployment, student-athlete sporting event, and natural disaster (e.g., tornado, flood, blizzard) 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, texting, phone calls, video games, talking, using electronic devices, earbuds, i.e., anything that takes your full attention away from class or distracts your classmates or instructor. You may be asked to leave the class if you don't correct unprofessional behavior. If the conduct continues, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean of Students may get involved.

**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](http://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](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.

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(Source: UWSP Risk Management Dept.)

**Tentative Schedule:**

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
<b>Module 1- Fundamental Concepts</b>			
1	1/22 1/23 1/25	Introduction Investigatory Process Legal Foundations	WI Criminal Law Handbook
2	1/29 1/30 2/1	Evidence 1 Evidence 2 Evidence 3	Physical Evidence Handbook Physical Evidence Handbook Physical Evidence Handbook
3	2/5 2/6 2/8	Interview & Interrogation 1 Interview & Interrogation 2 Interview & Interrogation 3	
<b>Module 2- Report Writing</b>			
4	2/12 2/13 2/15	Quiz 1: Fundamental Concepts Writing Narratives 1 Writing Narratives 2	Bandiero (through Step 5) Bandiero (through Step 10)
5	2/19 2/20 2/22	Bond Book & Wisconsin Law (Solid Waste example) Search Warrants 1 Search Warrants 2	WI DNR Bond Book
6	2/26 2/27 2/29	Search Warrants 3 Report Writing Practical Quiz 2: Report Writing, Module 3 Briefing	Bandiero (Post-narrative information through p. 19)
<b>Module 3- Case Investigations</b>			
7	3/4 3/5 3/7	Fishing Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
8	3/11 3/12 3/14	Hunting Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
	3/16- 3/24	SPRING BREAK	
9	3/25 3/26 3/28	Wildlife Trafficking/Captive Wildlife Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
10	4/1 4/2 4/4	Hunting Incidents Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
11	4/8 4/9	Trapping/Taxidermy Writing Laboratory	DNR bondbook

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	4/11	Case Discussion	
12	4/15 4/16 4/18	Recreational Vehicles Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
13	4/22 4/23 4/25	Water Resources Writing Laboratory Case Discussion	DNR bondbook
14	4/29 4/30 5/2	Search & Rescue Case Discussion Mock Trial briefing	
15	5/6 5/7 5/9	Mock Trial prep Mock Trial Day 1 Mock Trial Day 2	
16	5/13	FINAL EXAM (2:45 – 4:45 PM)	