

**NRES 775**  
**SELECTED TOPICS IN NATURAL RESOURCES – AQUATIC TROPHIC ECOLOGY**  
**FALL SEMESTER 2019, 2 CREDITS**

*Instructor:* Dan Dembkowski  
*Office:* TNR 345

*Lectures:* Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-1:50 PM  
*Location:* TNR 464

**\*\*Note:** Due to sampling schedules of the instructor and students, there may be days when this class does not meet during the allotted time. Details and alternative meeting arrangements will be discussed in class.

*Objectives:* At the completion of the course, students will be able to: (1) understand bottom-up versus top-down regulation of food webs; (2) understand interactions between and among individuals, cohorts, and populations occupying different trophic levels; (3) develop scientifically-sound experimental designs for studies involving sampling of fish diets; (4) quantify, compare, and present fish diet information; and (5) develop a functional understanding of bioenergetics models for estimating growth and consumption dynamics of fishes.

*Readings:* PDF copies of weekly readings will be provided on the course D2L website. Additional readings from *Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data* (Brown and Guy 2007) and *Fisheries Techniques, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Zale et al. 2012) will be assigned; copies of these books are available at the UWSP Library and the WICFRU Library.

*Format:* Two weekly lectures will cover topics related to aquatic trophic ecology, with a primary focus on bottom-up and top-down regulation of food webs; competitive and predatory interactions; design, sampling, analysis, and interpretation of fish diet studies and data; and bioenergetics models for estimating growth and consumption dynamics of fishes. The first half of the course will focus on the theoretical background of food web regulation and management, and lectures will consist of group discussions of relevant literature; students will be expected to read assigned papers prior to class and to participate in group discussions. The second half of the course will focus on applied aspects of aquatic trophic ecology, including sampling and study design, analysis and interpretation of fish diet data, and use of bioenergetics models to estimate growth and consumption. There will be mid-term and final exams, as well as several homework assignments.

*Grading:* Grades for this course will be based on participation in group discussions of assigned and relevant literature, homework assignments, and mid-term and final exams. Homework assignments are expected to be turned in on time unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Final grades for the course will be based on the following minimum values: A = 90%; B = 80%; C = 70% D = 60%; F = < 60%.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Papers (listed by senior author)
4-Sep	Introduction and overview	
	<b>Nutrient dynamics</b>	
9-Sep	Nutrient dynamics	Sondergaard (2007)
11-Sep	Nutrient management	Welch (1999); Schindler (2008)
16-Sep	Nutrient management	Welch (1999); Schindler (2008)
18-Sep	Alternative equilibria	Scheffer (1993); Scheffer (2007)
23-Sep	Oligotrophication	Stockner (2000); Jeppesen (2008)
	<b>Lentic food webs</b>	
25-Sep	Trophic cascades	Brooks (1965); Carpenter (1985); Carpenter (1992); DeMelo (1992)
30-Sep	Planktivory and omnivory	Rudstam (1993); Stein (1995)
2-Oct	Bio-manipulation	Drenner (1999); Schaus (2010)
7-Oct	Influence of fisheries management regulations	Johnson (1995); Krueger (2005)
9-Oct	Fish-bird interactions	Glahn (1995); Rudstam (2004); Dorr (2012)
14-Oct	Great Lakes food webs	Mills (2003)
	<b>Stable isotope and microelemental ecology</b>	
16-Oct	Stable isotope ecology and microchemistry	Post (2002); Pangle (2010)
21-Oct	Linking stable isotopes with diets	Vander Zanden (1997); Vander Zanden (1999); Scheibel (2016)
23-Oct	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	
	<b>Applied aspects of aquatic trophic ecology</b>	
28-Oct	Sampling diets and study design	FT3 chapter 16; AIFFD chapter 11
30-Oct	Quantifying, comparing, and presenting diet data	AIFFD chapter 11
4-Nov	Quantifying, comparing, and presenting diet data	AIFFD chapter 11
6-Nov	Prey selection indices	FTS chapter 16; AIFFD chapter 11
11-Nov	Assessing competitive interactions	Olson (2007)
13-Nov	Assessing predatory interactions	TBD
18-Nov	Bioenergetics overview	AIFFD chapter 12
20-Nov	Bioenergetics model development and application	TBD
25-Nov	Bioenergetics inputs and modeling	AIFFD chapter 12; FB4 manual
27-Nov	NO CLASS	
2-Dec	Bioenergetics modeling	FB4 manual
4-Dec	Bioenergetics modeling	FB4 manual
9-Dec	Bioenergetics modeling	FB4 manual
11-Dec	Bioenergetics modeling	FB4 manual
16-Dec	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	