

# WTR347/547 Syllabus

Fall 2023

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I am not on campus every day, but I am always available through email. I am available to meet via Zoom or in my office TNR231 by appointment.

This class will be delivered through a mix of in-person field trips, recorded lecture, and online assignments using Canvas and YouTube. Please familiarize yourself with these applications before the beginning of the course. More information about Canvas can be found in the Canvas Student Orientation here: <https://uwstp.instructure.com/enroll/36GKLY>. Access Canvas through the UWSP home page by selecting it from the dropdown menu in the upper right corner, or by clicking this direct link: <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx>

## Class Meetings:

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** – meet in TNR351 prior to our field trip. We will have a brief introduction to the course and you will receive your textbooks. Bring appropriate footwear to walk through up to 18” of water. Most students just wear sandals, old tennis shoes, or boots.

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** – no in-person meeting. Virtual underwater field trip and online assignment.

**Saturday, September 23<sup>th</sup>** – meet at shelter building in SW corner of Schmeeckle Reserve, near the intersection of Reserve Street and Maria Drive. We will have a field trip and then return to the classroom for the final exam.

**Textbook** - *Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest: a photographic field guide to our underwater forests*. This book will be provided to you on the first day of class. You may keep the book and use it on the lab exam.

The course grade will be based on 400 points distributed as follows:

Lecture assignments.....	200 points
Plant photo collection due via email by September 21 <sup>st</sup> .....	100 points
Extra credit: Turn in your COMPLETE collection by Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> .....	10 points
Final exam on September 23 <sup>rd</sup> .....	100 points

Letter grades will be based entirely on the total points accumulated by the student on the following scale:

93% +	= A	78-79%	= C+
90-92%,	= A-	73-77%	= C
88-89%	= B+	70-72%	= C-
83-87%	= B	68-69%	= D+
80-82%	= B-	60-67%	= D

**A photo collection of 15 (20 for WTR547 students) correctly identified aquatic plant specimens must be turned in via email by September 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Please carefully read the rules below and refer to the example photo collection document posted to Canvas.

Photos must be taken on-site rather than bringing specimens home for later photographing. It is illegal in Wisconsin to transport aquatic plants away from water bodies unless you are documenting a new invasive species population or taking a specimen to an expert for verification. If you believe you have found a new population of an invasive species, you may collect it and report it to me immediately via email. Refer to the Wisconsin DNR's list of known aquatic invasive species populations here to see if it is in fact new to that waterbody (select the appropriate county in the dropdown box)  
<https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISByWaterbody.aspx>

Each photo must have only one individual plant in the photo. DO NOT photograph clumps of plants, whether it is a clump of a single species or multiple species.

In order to qualify for this assignment, **all plants must have been growing in standing water**. They may be emergent like a bulrush, floating on the water like a water lily, or submergent like a pondweed, watermilfoil, etc.

Keep plants wet until you take the photos. Aquatic plants shrivel up VERY quickly in direct sun.

Photos must be clear and in focus.

Photos must include your hand, either next to the plant if it is rooted in the ground, or aquatic plants may be laid out on your hand. This provides a sense of scale to the photograph and minimizes need for any additional objects or contrasting backgrounds.

If your camera cannot focus on a small plant like a duckweed, then choose larger plants for your collection.

Identifying features should be emphasized in the photograph (i.e. by separating an individual leaf, clearly showing leaf arrangement, etc.).

Your 15 (20 for WATR547) photos must be of 15 (20) different species. No repeats.

**You must identify all plants to species-level** and give their Latin names and common names, location of the collection, and the date of collection. If you are unable to identify it to species, choose a different plant for your collection instead.

Plants can be collected from any waterbody in Wisconsin.