

# Political Ecology & Sustainability (EDSU 712/912)

## Spring 2024 | Syllabus

Hižąkišąną hinikaragiwi (I greet you all)! My name is Dr. Lewis and I'll be your instructor for this course. You can learn more about me in my introduction page on Canvas. Please know that I am looking forward to working each of you this semester. A goal for us will be to create and maintain a learning environment that is inclusive of us all. This course covers some fascinating material, and I am excited to learn with you this spring!

### Course Information

#### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcus Lewis (Noxjukhii)

**Office:** [Virtual via Zoom](#)

**Virtual Office Hours:** By appointment

**E-mail:** [mlewis@uwsp.edu](mailto:mlewis@uwsp.edu)

#### Course Information

**Course Description:** Explore the relationships between political, economic, social, and environmental aspects of contemporary sustainability issues. Learn multiple perspectives regarding the preservation and management of the commons and research the political ecology of a locally relevant issue.

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** Admission into the Ed.D. program for EDSU 912 students. Available for master's program graduate credit as EDSU 712.

#### My Commitments to You

- I will interact with you in a respectful manner.
- I will provide you constructive, substantive feedback on your papers.
- I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours (excluding weekends). If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours, please resend your email.
- I will attempt to assess your discussion posts within one week of discussions closing.
- I will attempt to grade your papers within one week, however, longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

#### Communicate with Me!

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let me know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Please make sure that you are proactive in informing me when difficulties arise during the

semester so that I can help you find a solution. Email is the best way to get in touch with me and I will respond within 24 business hours.

## Your Responsibilities

- Take an active role in your learning success.
- Maintain respectful relationships with me and your fellow classmates.
- Complete all assignments.
- Notify me in advance if your assignments will be submitted after the due date.

## Textbook & Course Materials (Bibliography)

**Required Text:** Cederlöf, G., & Loftus, A. (2024). *Discovering political ecology*. Routledge.

**Recommended Texts & Other Readings:** Other readings are available in the class Canvas page.

## Course Learning Outcomes

See the [UWSP FAQs for Writing Learning Outcomes document](#) for useful information.

A learning outcome is a statement that describes what you will know (knowledge), be able to do (skill), and/or value/appreciate (disposition) as a result of a learning experience.

You will be able to meet the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- Evaluate relevant research and readings in political ecology on the topic of their choice.
- Create a position on their topic.
- Evaluate existing policies that influence and are relevant to their topic of interest.
- Create a visual and oral presentation (10-12 minute) presentation that integrates evaluation of research, their position, and relevant policies on their topic of interest.

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Complete assigned tasks including written assignments, course readings, online videos, discussion boards, and a video presentation.
- Attend or review synchronous meetings and/or recordings.

## Educational Sustainability Program Learning Outcomes

You will understand that:

1. Political ecology encompasses environmental, cultural, socio-ecological, and

- ecological wellness.
2. The complexity of governmental economic, political, and social policies influences the natural world.
  3. You can and should have a role in advocacy and practice in the modern world.
  4. Political ecology explores equity, diversity, inclusivity, and social justice issues.

## Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to log in to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

## Attendance

Attendance at live seminars is encouraged but is not required. Video recordings of the seminars will be posted on the course Canvas page.

## Topic Outline/Schedule

**Important Note:** Refer to the Canvas course home page for pertinent information. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each corresponding Module. If you have any questions, please contact me!

Module	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Dates
1	Introduction to Political Ecology	Cederlöf, G., & Loftus, A. (2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 1-2</li> </ul> Robbins, P. (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 1 (in Canvas)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Position Paper</li> </ul>	See Canvas
2	Leveraging Your Influence to Promote Change	Cederlöf, G., & Loftus, A. (2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 4-6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• White Paper</li> </ul>	See Canvas
3	Sustainability Development Goals in Action	Cederlöf, G., & Loftus, A. (2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 7</li> </ul> Robbins, P. (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part V (in Canvas)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG Action Plan</li> </ul>	See Canvas
4	Sharing What You've Learned	Cederlöf, G., & Loftus, A. (2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 8-9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video Presentation</li> <li>• Peer Review</li> <li>• Reflection</li> </ul>	See Canvas

## Technology

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by you. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive scholarly experience. Therefore, AI generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

### Canvas Support

UWSP contracts with Canvas for 24/7/365 support. Several support options are available to users.

Click on the help button (question mark) in the global navigation menu on the left side of the screen and select the support option that best meets your needs.

*All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email me, I may not be available immediately.*

Self-train on Canvas through the [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#)

### Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#).
- You will also need access to the following tools to participate in this course.
- webcam
- microphone
- printer
- a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)

### Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. IT provides a [list of UWSP approved tools](#).

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use

- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

## Technology Support

- Participate in the [Tech Essentials for Student Success \(TESS\)](#) program.
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - IT Service Desk Email: [techhelp@uwsp.edu](mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu)

## Grading Policies

### Completing Assignments

**All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed.** Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or please notify me *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments should be completed by the assignment due date and time. If additional time is required, please let me know in advance.

### Graded Course Activities

Click the **Grades** link in Canvas to access the gradebook and view feedback from me. Overall assignments and accompanying points are listed below:

Description	Points
M1: Your Approach to Political Ecology (Discussion)	5
M1: Political Ecology Position Paper	15
M2: Reflecting on Nature & Wilderness	5
M2: White Paper	20
M3: SDG Action Plan	20
M4: Video Presentation	20
M4: Peer Reviews	10
M4: Final Reflection	5
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>

### Late Work Policy

There is no point deduction penalty for late work throughout the semester. It is, however, your responsibility to notify me if your assignment will be late and to provide an approximate timeline for submission. The exceptions to this policy are the posting of

final grades at the end of the semester.

## Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	60-66.99%
F	Below 60%

## Participation

There are no specific participation points for this course as that practice is inherently inequitable. You are encouraged to attend the synchronous seminars to provide a more robust learning environment for you and your peers.

## Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete – typically within 10 days following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Canvas home page under the link to this course.

## Student Support Resources

### [Academic and Career Advising Center \(ACAC\)](#)

209 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)  
1801 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-346-3226  
[acac@uwsp.edu](mailto:acac@uwsp.edu)

## **Counseling Center**

Delzell Hall  
910 Fremont Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-346-3553  
[counsel@uwsp.edu](mailto:counsel@uwsp.edu)

## **Mental Health Resources for Students**

### **Mantra Health**

Teletherapy & Telepsychiatry

- Diverse therapists
- After-hours availability
- Medication evaluations & prescriptions

### **You@UWSP**

Self-help & Well-being Platform

### **Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services**

24/7 Mental Health Support:

- Call or text: 888-531-2142
- [Start a chat session](#)
- Crisis care available

## **Dean of Students Office**

2100 Main Street  
Old Main, Room 212  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897  
Phone: 715-346-2611  
[DOS@uwsp.edu](mailto:DOS@uwsp.edu)

## **Equal Access and Disability Accommodations**

If you have a condition that may impact your learning and/or participation in course activities, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). The DRC will engage in an interactive process with students and identify appropriate academic accommodations and auxiliary services in accordance with the University's legal obligations. Instructors,

students, and DRC staff work collaboratively to establish any necessary adjustments or supports. Accommodations are rarely applied retroactively so it is vital that students make timely requests.

Please let me know if you have questions. The DRC is located in 108 Collins Classroom Center and can be reached at 715/346-3365 and [drc@uwsp.edu](mailto:drc@uwsp.edu).

## Library Resources

### Research Assistance

Get help with research for this class from the library. Email questions to [librefd@uwsp.edu](mailto:librefd@uwsp.edu), call (715) 346-2836, [chat online](#), schedule an individual or group [research consultation](#), or stop by the Library's Reference Desk located on the first floor or the Collins Classroom Center (CCC 104). For more information, visit the library's web site at [www.uwsp.edu/library](http://www.uwsp.edu/library).

### Library Resources and Services

The Library offers resources and services to support your success in this and every course. Find thousands of books, articles, videos, and other resources through [Search@UW](#) and [library databases](#). [Ask a Librarian](#) to get help with your research, from developing search strategies to citing your sources. For more information, visit the library's web site at [www.uwsp.edu/library](http://www.uwsp.edu/library).

## Student Health Service

Delzell Hall  
910 Fremont St  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-346-4646

## Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC)

The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) helps students in all disciplines become more effective, confident learners. We believe all learners benefit from sharing work with knowledgeable, attentive tutors. The TLC offers four tutoring services:

- Academic Coaching: Build skills in studying, time management, test-taking, online learning, and more.
- Course Content: Practice problems, deepen understanding, and prepare for exams in natural resources, STEM, World Languages, and more.
- Reading/Writing: Brainstorm and refine papers, essays, lab reports, citations, résumés, scholarship applications, personal writing, and more.
- Tech Essentials: Develop computer literacy and learn to use UWSP-related applications such as Canvas, Microsoft 365, and Zoom.



To make an appointment, you can self-schedule using Navigate, contact us at [tlctutor@uwsp.edu](mailto:tlctutor@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-3568, or stop into CCC 234.

### **Stevens Point Campus Tutoring-Learning Center**

234 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)  
1801 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-346-3568  
[tlctutor@uwsp.edu](mailto:tlctutor@uwsp.edu)

### **Marshfield Campus Tutoring-Learning Center**

Library  
2000 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
715-898-6036  
[roleary@uwsp.edu](mailto:roleary@uwsp.edu)

### **Wausau Campus Tutoring-Learning Center**

Library  
518 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-261-6148  
[lorandal@uwsp.edu](mailto:lorandal@uwsp.edu)

## **Additional UWSP Policies**

### **Absences due to Military Service**

As stated in the UWSP Catalog, you will not be penalized for class absence due to unavoidable or legitimate required military obligations, or medical appointments at a VA facility, not to exceed two (2) weeks unless special permission is granted by me. You are responsible for notifying faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible and for providing documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students to verify the reason for the absence. The faculty member is responsible to provide reasonable accommodations or opportunities to make up exams or other course assignments that have an impact on the course grade. For absences due to being deployed for active duty, please refer to the [Military Call-Up Instructions for Students](#).

## Academic Integrity

At UW-Stevens Point and in all courses, we place great emphasis on academic integrity and honesty. Plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, helping others commit these acts, and any form of dishonesty compromise the educational process and devalue the achievements of all students. All work you submit must be original and completed individually unless collaboration is explicitly allowed. Always acknowledge your sources, cite appropriately, and give credit where it's due. If instances of alleged academic dishonesty are identified, appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the institution's policies ([UWSP Chapter 14](#)). These actions could include revising the assignment, receiving a lower grade or no credit for the assignment, receiving a lower grade for the entire course, or facing greater academic consequences.

*If you are unsure if something might be considered academic misconduct, you are struggling to understand the content or an assignment, or you have fallen behind for whatever reason, please contact me as soon as possible.* By nurturing a community of support, honesty, and respect, we ensure that academic pursuits and your experiences at UW-Stevens Point are both meaningful and genuine.

## Clery Act

The US Department of Education requires universities to disclose and publish campus crime statistics, security information, and fire safety information annually. Statistics for the three previous calendar years and policy statements are released on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> in our [Annual Security Report](#). Another requirement of the Clery Act is that the campus community must be given timely warnings of ongoing safety threats and immediate/emergency notifications. For more information about when and how these notices will be sent out, please see our [Jeanne Clery Act](#) page.

## Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university), you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

## Confidentiality

Learning requires risk-taking and sharing ideas. Please keep your classmates' ideas and experiences confidential outside the classroom unless permission has been granted to share them.

## Copyright infringement

This is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act. Each year students violate these laws and campus policies, putting themselves at risk of

federal prosecution. For more information about what to expect if you are caught, or to take preventive measures to keep your computing device clean, visit our [copyright page](#).

## Dropping UWSP Courses

It is your responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to you or your family.

## Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires institutions of higher education to establish policies that address unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs. The DFSCA also requires the establishment of a drug and alcohol prevention program. The Center for Prevention lists information about alcohol and drugs, their effects, and the legal consequences if found in possession of these substances. [Center for Prevention – DFSCA](#)

## FERPA

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) provides you with a right to protect, review, and correct their student records. Staff of the university with a clear *educational need to know* may also have to access to certain student records. Exceptions to the law include parental notification in cases of alcohol or drug use, and in case of a health or safety concern. FERPA also permits a school to disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without consent, to another school in which you seek or intend to enroll.

Lecture materials and recordings 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. You 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] You may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. You may not provide or sell your personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without my 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.

## Inclusivity Statement

I am committed to diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence in my teaching. I strive to create affirming learning spaces for students of all abilities, genders, racial identities, sexual identities, and ages in my classes. I recognize that everyone has a unique lens of lived experiences and that you all bring valuable insights with you into the learning spaces. That said, though I am a diversity and inclusion practitioner, I am still on my own journey of learning and will undoubtedly make mistakes along the way. I ask that you please make me aware of those instances and extend me the same grace that I will extend to you. I am excited to learn from you this semester!

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it, please visit [the Dean of Students – Bias/Hate Incident Reporting website](#). You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at [dos@uwsp.edu](mailto:dos@uwsp.edu).

## Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, you may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if you request it. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within guidelines established by the UWSP Dean of Students Office.

## Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your fellow students and I wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as 😊 or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with your classmates.

- Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the “Send” button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). [\*Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus\*](#). *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, 6(1).

Shea, V. (1994). [Netiquette. Albion.com](#).

## Religious Beliefs Accommodation

It is UW System policy ([UWS 22](#)) to reasonably accommodate your sincerely held religious beliefs with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. You will be permitted to make up an exam or other academic requirement at another time or by an alternative method, without any prejudicial effect, if:

- There is a scheduling conflict between your sincerely held religious beliefs and taking the exam or meeting the academic requirements; and
- You have notified me within the first three weeks of the beginning of classes (first week of summer or interim courses) of the specific days or dates that you will request relief from an examination or academic requirement.
- I will accept the sincerity of your religious beliefs at face value and keep your request confidential.
- I will schedule a make-up exam or requirement before or after the regularly scheduled exam or requirement.
- You may file any complaints regarding compliance with this policy in the Equity and Affirmative Action Office.

## Title IX

UW-Stevens Point is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and institutional policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the event that you choose to disclose information about having survived sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, and specify that this violence occurred while a student at UWSP, federal and state laws mandate that I, as your instructor, notify the Title IX Coordinator/Office of the Dean of Students.

Please see the information on the [Dean of Students webpage](#) for information on making confidential reports of misconduct or interpersonal violence, as well as campus and community resources available to students. For more information see the [Title IX page](#).