

NRES 374 (3 cr.) and 482 (12 cr.): Practicum in Environmental Interpretation and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
Syllabus – Spring 2021
Schmeeckle Reserve

Course Schedule:

Mondays: Class meets 2:00-5:00 p.m. Check Canvas for meeting location (Zoom or Schmeeckle)
One other day per week self-directed; evening and weekend programs

Course Instructors:

Megan Espe	Jim Buchholz	Stephanie Somerville
Interpretation Instructor	Schmeeckle Director	Graduate Assistant
TNR 176	Schmeeckle Center	Schmeeckle Reserve
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Course Description:

Plan, present, and evaluate interpretive programs, and further your skills creating media for nature centers and park visitors. This capstone course allows you to demonstrate proficiency in skills and knowledge gained in previous environmental education and interpretation courses.

Recommended Resources:

- Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The Interpreter's Guidebook: Techniques for Programs and Presentations*, 4th ed. Stevens Point, WI: UW-SP Foundation.
- NRES 369 Interpretive Media Lab tutorials binder.

Grading Procedure:

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

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 = 60-66%	F = 59-0%	

Your final grade for NRES 482 will be an average of your final grade on the two practicum components:
50%: CWES teaching responsibilities and assignments (see CWES syllabus)
50%: Schmeeckle interpretive programs and projects

Late Policy

Assignments submitted late will be deducted 10 percent/day. If you have extenuating circumstances that are preventing you from completing work on time, please contact me.

Professionalism and Student Conduct

Students in the College of Natural Resources are pursuing courses of study that prepare them for careers as natural resources professionals. Thus, CNR students and faculty/staff are expected to exhibit conduct and attitudes appropriate to professionals. During the Schmeeckle practicum, we view you as ambassadors of the natural area and have high expectations for your professionalism in how you represent Schmeeckle and the university to the public. For your public and video interpretive programs in particular, if you do not demonstrate acceptable progress on your program development, Schmeeckle staff reserve the right to cancel your program with no opportunity to make up those assignments.

Drop-in Hours for Megan Espe:

I am available on Zoom for virtual drop-in hours from 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays and 3-4 p.m. Thursdays. See Canvas for the link to join. RSVP if you want to ensure I'm available, or take your chances and just drop in. You're also welcome to contact me to arrange other times to meet.

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

If accommodations are needed, please inform the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), datctr@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3365.

Environmental Interpretation Practicum Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome (LO) #1: Knowledge of Self
Demonstrate a strong awareness of self, including personality, knowledge, strengths, and weaknesses, and work to develop these skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be creative and open to trying something new • Adapt to various situations with flexibility, problem-solving, and creativity • Demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal growth • Prioritize tasks through organizational skills and personal responsibility • Admit when you don't know something and be willing to find the answer • Exhibit commitment through enthusiasm and passion for Schmeckle's mission and values • Demonstrate professionalism in appearance, attendance, demeanor, and representation of Schmeckle Reserve • Accept constructive feedback and guidance
LO #2: Knowledge of Site and Visitor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop interpretive programs and media that relate to Schmeckle Reserve's mission and are relevant to central Wisconsin natural and cultural history. • Increase your personal connection to Schmeckle Reserve and integrate that passion into your interpretive efforts to relate to your audience. • Develop interpretive programs and media that target audiences typical to Schmeckle Reserve, including a variety of ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
LO #3: Program Development
Conduct research, develop a theme and sub-themes, incorporate a variety of creative techniques, and present professional-level interpretive programs for a variety of audiences.
LO #4: Interpretive Media
Create, write, and design non-personal professional interpretive media for program marketing and interpretation.
LO #5: Evaluation
Evaluate your peers' interpretive programs and media and critique your own work for effectiveness and quality.

Student Learning Outcomes adapted in part from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Interpretation Standards Project, 2018.

Environmental Interpretation Practicum Assignments:

See Canvas for all due dates.

LO #1: Knowledge of Self

1. **NAI and NAAEE Standards Self-Assessment:** *Completed in NRES 483 and referred to in the Schmeckle practicum.*
2. **Coaching Sessions** (25 pts/each): Schedule and attend three one-on-one meetings with Megan. Attend meetings prepared to share updates on program and media development progress and bring questions and concerns for feedback and guidance.

LO #3: Interpretive Program Development

1. **Individual Interpretive Program:** Research, plan, develop, and present a public interpretive program on a topic of your choosing that's relevant to Schmeckle Reserve and its visitors.
 - Develop an outdoor program (guided walk, campfire program, etc.) with a built-in rain date, at least 45 minutes long, presented to an audience of all ages.

Assignments for Public Interpretive Program:

- **Tangibles/Intangibles and Theme statement** (10 pts): Develop a focused, creative interpretive theme for your program.
 - **Three Pillars of Interpretation** (10 pts): How does your individual program meet Schmeckle's goals and adapt to potential audiences? (also relates to LO #2: Knowledge of Site & Visitor)
 - **Program research** (10 pts): Conduct research for your interpretive program and document your sources.
 - **Subthemes** (10 pts): Develop your program's main points, based on your theme.
 - **Interpretive Techniques** (10 pts): Develop creative techniques for your program.
 - **POW and Conclusion** (10 pts): Develop a thematic POW and Conclusion.
 - **Final Theme Sheet** (50 pts): A final draft, based on the feedback you receive on the components above, will be due one week before your rehearsal.
 - **Dress Rehearsal** (75 pts): Presented at least 1 week prior to your program. Each program will be presented in its entirety (including props, costumes, demonstrations, activities, etc.) to the class during Monday class time. The class will provide feedback to help you make final adjustments. Be prepared!
 - **Program Evaluation** (180 pts): Your final public program will be evaluated on the use of interpretive principles, program organization, interpretive techniques, and effort.
2. **"Nature Notes" Program Video:** Create a short (~5 minute) interpretive program video that will be posted on the Schmeckle YouTube and Facebook page. Assignments include:
 - **Draft Theme Sheet** (10 pts)
 - **Final Theme Sheet** (25 pts)
 - **Draft Video** (40 pts)
 - **Final Video** (100 pts)
 3. **Group Character Program:** As a group, develop thematic characters, write a script, and create costumes for a character program based on a theme. Assignments include:
 - Draft Script (25 pts)
 - Final Script (50 pts)
 - Dress Rehearsal (50 pts)
 - Final Presentation (100 pts)

LO #4: Interpretive Media

- 1. Program Brochure (15 pts):** You will each be responsible for developing a program description and sourcing a copyright-free image for the program brochure that will be distributed to the Schmeckle Reserve mailing list. The brochure will advertise each program with a date, time, meeting location, a concise interpretive description, and the presenter's name.
- 2. Facebook Posts (10 pts/each):** Develop a concise, creative Facebook posting that encourages Schmeckle visitors to attend your program or watch your video.
- 3. Interpretive Media:** You will develop either an interpretive sign or print media piece for Schmeckle Reserve. Assignments include:
 - a. Planning phase: Media topic, format, theme development, statement of purpose, measurable objectives (20 pts)
 - b. Draft media design (30 pts)
 - c. Final media design (100 pts)

LO #5: Evaluation

- 1. Program Evaluation Reflection (10 pts):** Reflect on the qualities of constructive feedback.
- 2. Rehearsal Attendance (50 pts):** Attend and participate in the critique of all other class members' program rehearsals. The greatest learning usually occurs in the interactions at rehearsals where we can make suggestions to each other and brainstorm ideas with the pressure of an upcoming public program. It is your responsibility to attend all of these rehearsals, and notify the instructors as soon as possible if a conflict arises.
- 3. Program Attendance (50 pts):** Attend 5 of your classmates' public programs and stay after to discuss as a group.
- 4. Nature Notes Review (40 pts):** Watch 5 of your classmates' draft Nature Notes videos and complete an evaluation.
- 5. Critical Review of Individual Program (25 pts):** Due 1 week after your program video is posted. Write a 2-3 page paper to critique your public presentation based on your experience and the video.
- 6. Critical Review of Nature Notes video (15 pts):** Due 1 week after your program video is posted. Write a 1-2 page paper to critique your video.
- 7. Peer Media Evaluation (40 pts):** Provide peer feedback on draft media designs.

Schedule: NRES 482 Environmental Interpretation Practicum – Spring 2021 *Subject to Change*

Date, Time Location	Topics
Mon. Jan. 25 2-5p, Zoom	Welcome & Introductions Syllabus & required materials, Canvas details Learning outcomes Covid-19 considerations: Illness, due dates, etc. In-person program topic ideas Interpretive themes
Mon. Feb. 1 2-5p, Zoom	Schmeeckle Orientation Topics & theme workshopping Program scheduling Nature Notes Video topics
Mon. Feb. 8 2-5p, Zoom	Program planning: Logistics Brochure description workshopping Interpretive Media topics
Mon. Feb. 15 2-5p, Zoom	Finalize brochure Program evaluation Nature Notes Video theme sheet workshopping
Mon. Feb. 22 2-5p, Zoom	Interpretive Media Plan review
Mon. Mar. 1 2-5p, Zoom	Interpretive Media Peer review
Mon. Mar. 8 2-5p, Zoom	Nature Notes video recording help
Mon. Mar. 15 2-5p, Zoom	Nature Notes Video Peer review
Mon. Mar. 22	Spring Break
Mon. Mar. 29 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Dress rehearsals Character program script writing
Mon. Apr. 5 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Dress rehearsals
Mon. Apr. 12 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Dress rehearsals
Mon. Apr. 19 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Dress rehearsals
Mon. Apr. 26 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Dress rehearsals
Mon. May 3 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Character program rehearsal
Mon. May 10 2-5p, Schmeeckle	Character program final production/filming