

SOIL/WSTE 486/688 - COMPOSTING

Fall 2020

Dr. R. Michitsch

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Office Hours: drop-in or by Zoom/telephone appointment only

Course Location/Hours: 2:00-5:00 Tuesdays - virtual

Course Catalog Description:

Theory and practice of controlled aerobic decomposition including various methods for composting different types of waste materials. Lab techniques for compost testing and tours of large and small composting facilities.

Tentative Course Discussion Topics:

- W1 No class
- W2 Compost basics, safety, facilities
- W3 Busy Bee Compost
- W4 Methods, recipes, build piles, TMECC
- W5 Animal composting
- W6 Troubleshooting
- W7 Odors
- W8 Mature compost
- W9 Hsu's Compost
- W10 Compost teas
- W11 Compost microbiology, vermicomposting
- W12 Regulations, facility design
- W13 Compostability, compostable packaging (Thanksgiving)
- W14 Economics, marketing
- W15 Project presentations

Students Completing This Course Will Be Able To:

Describe various approaches to different composting systems.

Understand and measure basic composting parameters.

Access regulations for composting and waste disposal or reuse.

Troubleshoot an active compost pile over the course of a semester.

Describe economic/societal/legal/environmental influences on composting operations.

Student Assessment:

Homework Assignments	10-20%	(compost calculator, germination/elongation)
Composting Project	40-50%	(eg 25% semester work, 15% final presentation)
Final Exam	30%	(Monday Dec 14 th , 10:15-12:15pm - virtual)
Participation/Professionalism	10%	(classes, lab work, 2-3 field trip videos)

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may work together in virtual laboratory and class discussions, but you will do most all assignments and exams independently. You must present your own interpretations of analyses and reflect your understanding of the problem or assignment. Your instructor may allow you to submit joint assignments on a case-by-case basis.

Commitment to Integrity:

As a student in this course and at UWSP 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.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures: Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures**UWSP 14.01** Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
 - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
 - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
 - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
 - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
 - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
 - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.
- (2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Unauthorized sharing of course materials:

Lecture materials, recordings, and other materials for this course 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.