

**WATR 200**  
**Preparing for a Career in Fisheries and Water Resources**  
**Fall Semester 2021, 1 Credit**

*Instructor of Record:* Dr. Justin VanDeHey

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*Office hours:* Mondays 10:00 – 11:00

*Zoom Office Hours Link and Password:*

<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94538093854?pwd=bUJpclA1dHQzbXZ1SnB4RGVpVXQ2UT09>

*Passcode:* 994259

*Classroom:* TNR 320

*Meeting day and time:* Mondays 1:00-1:50 PM

*Other Fisheries and Water Resources Faculty*

Dr. Justin VanDeHey, TNR 178, 715-346-2090, [jvandehe@uwsp.edu](mailto:jvandehe@uwsp.edu)

Dr. Jered Studinski, TNR 184, 715-346-2832, [jstudins@uwsp.edu](mailto:jstudins@uwsp.edu)

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Dr. Paul McGinley, TNR 224F, 715-346-4501, [Paul.mcginley@uwsp.edu](mailto:Paul.mcginley@uwsp.edu)

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing this course students will be able to:

- 1) Competently and completely plan their academic program for the fisheries and water resources majors;
- 2) Articulate what fisheries and water resource scientists do for a living;
- 3) Make an intelligent and informed career choice with respect to options in the fisheries and water resources fields; and
- 4) Find and effectively use resources to aid them in finding permanent and/or temporary jobs in fisheries and water resources.

## **Grading**

The course is graded as pass/fail. You must obtain a minimum score of 70% on all assignments to pass the class. You must complete the attendance assignment for all the weekly lectures.

**Missing more than two attendance assignments will result in an automatic fail.** Excused absences are possible under special conditions or serious documented illness. Excused absences MUST be cleared **in advance** by contacting the course instructor (Dr. VanDeHey).

For students in Section #1 (those who have not taken Boaters Safety) you must take and pass the on-line Wisconsin Boater's Education Course. You will receive an email with instructions on how to take the course. Upon completion of the boater's safety course you must provide proof (photo, hard copy, screen shot of the completion, etc...) of a passing score to Dr. VanDeHey to pass the course (WATR 200). **You must complete the Boaters Safety by the last week of classes (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>).**

You must complete all homework assignments during the semester worth a total of 100 points. Assignments must be turned in by the due date. A penalty of 2 percentage point per day will apply to all late assignments. You are expected to do your own work on all assignments. Plagiarized assignments indicate a lack of integrity not consistent with the natural resources profession and will result in a grade of zero.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Date	Topic	Presenter
Sept. 13	Introduction, assignments, job boards	Dr. VanDeHey
Sept. 20	SSC, AccessPoint, DPRs and degree planning	B. Kubish & K. Youngberg
Sept. 27	Internships	Dr. Raabe
Oct. 4	Selecting an option in Fisheries and Water Resources	Drs. Herrman & VanDeHey
Oct. 11	Issues in Water Resource Management	Dr. Kraft
Oct. 18	Guest lecture – Working for the Private Sector	Mr. Jon Gumtow
Oct. 25	Professionalism, from emails to resumes to meetings	Dr. Brian Sloss
Nov. 1	Interview Skills	Mrs. Sue Kissinger
Nov. 8	Guest lecture – Working with the federal government	Mr. Ted Treska
Nov. 15	Graduate School	Dr. VanDeHey
Nov. 22	Careers in Water Resources and Hydrology	Dr. Herrman
Nov. 29	Careers in Fisheries	Dr. Raabe
Dec. 6	Guest lecture – Working at WDNR	Mr. Jordan Weeks

### **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

Brief descriptions of the four required assignments are given below. More detailed information including due dates, formats and content requirements will be given out in class and posted to Canvas at the appropriate times. Name all assignments in the following manner:

Lastname\_Assignment 1 - (e.g., VanDeHey\_Assignment 1)

Canvas Page: <https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/435762>

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 1: Research summer job and internship opportunities (25 points)

Obtaining field experience is a very important step in your professional development. In this assignment you will search for three job opportunities and write descriptions of the jobs, any requirements, and application procedures. Two of the jobs should be seasonal/temporary (e.g. summer) in nature, the other job should be your “dream” job, or a permanent position that you think you would enjoy. Please indicate which jobs are seasonal and which is your dream job. Provide a weblink for where you found each of the position descriptions. Finally, tell me why you want this position (1-2 sentences per job). **Assignment is due Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 2: Prepare a degree plan (25 points).

This assignment is designed to assist you in getting through your program in the most efficient way possible. This requires thought and foresight. Choosing your schedule each semester without thought for the future is a sure way to extend your stay and cost you thousands of additional dollars. First, list your major and your name at the top of the page. Please include the course prefix and numbers (e.g., WATR 200), the name of the course, and the number of credits each course is. If you have already taken some courses here at UWSP please include those in the appropriate semester blocks on the template (provided on D2L). Make sure to select your elective courses as well. Don’t just put “elective credits.” Be very aware that many courses are only offered during the fall or spring semesters, not both. Also, when you turn this assignment in to Canvas please include an updated copy of your Degree Progress Report (DPR). **Assignment is due October 18<sup>th</sup>.**

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT 3: Develop a draft cover letter for future use (25 points).

Develop a draft cover letter for one of the seasonal jobs you found for assignment #1. **Assignment is due Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.**

ASSIGNMENT 4: Attend a student chapter of a professional society meeting. (25 points).

After the meeting, write a one-page, double-spaced summary. Include the date attended and a description of the topics discussed at the meeting. If there is a guest speaker, include a summary of their presentation. Finish your write up by including some reflections and impressions of your visit that include ways you could contribute to the mission of the professional society as well as ways that you would benefit from involvement with that, or another professional society. Upload your essay to Canvas for this assignment.

Fisheries students attend The American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting, water resource or hydrology majors attend an American Water Resources Association (AWRA) or Students for Wetland Awareness, Management and Protection (SWAMP) meeting. The AFS student subunit meetings are every other Wednesday at 5 PM, SWAMP meetings are at 5 PM on most Mondays, and AWRA meetings are at 5 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Most, if not all, of these meetings will be available via Zoom. Alternative, appropriate professional societies must be approved by the instructor prior to submission of the assignment. **Assignment is due Dec. 10th.**

## **COVID – 19 Guidelines Effective Through September 30<sup>th</sup> (or longer); Subject to Change**

**Face Coverings:** • At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

**Other Guidance:** • Please monitor your own health each day using this screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646). As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus. • Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible. • Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room. • Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face. • Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

## **University of Wisconsin Stevens Point College of Natural Resources- Principles of Professionalism**

The College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point prepares students for success as professionals in many fields. As a professional, there are expectations of attainment of several personal characteristics. These include:

### **Integrity**

Integrity refers to adherence to consistent moral and ethical principles. A person with integrity is honest and treats others fairly.

### **Collegiality**

Collegiality is a cooperative relationship. By being collegial you are respecting our shared commitment to student education through cooperative interaction. This applies to all involved in the process: students, staff, faculty, administration and involved community members. You take collective responsibility for the work performed together, helping the group attain its goals.

### **Civility**

Civility refers to politeness and courtesy in your interactions with others. Being civil requires that you consider the thoughts and conclusions of others and engage in thoughtful, constructive discussion to express your own thoughts and opinions.

### **Inclusivity**

Inclusivity requires you to be aware that perspective and culture will control how communication is understood by others. While many values are shared, some are quite different. These differences in values should be both considered and respected.

### **Timeliness**

Timeliness is the habit of performance of tasks and activities, planned in a way that allows you to meet deadlines. This increases workplace efficiency and demonstrates respect for others' time.

### **Respect for Property**

Respect for property is the appreciation of the economic or personal value an item maintains. Maintaining this respect can both reduce costs (increase the operable life of supplies and equipment) as well as demonstrate respect for others rights.

## **Communication**

**Professional norms in communication require that you demonstrate the value of your colleagues, students, professors or others. The use of appropriate tone and vocabulary is expected across all forms of communication, whether that communication takes place face to face, in writing or electronically.**

## **Commitment to Quality**

**Quality is the ability to meet or exceed expectations. By having a commitment to quality, we intend to provide a learning environment that is conducive to learning. Intrinsic to this commitment to quality is defining expectation (committed to in a syllabus through learning outcomes), implementation (with quality control in place) and assessment (where meeting of learning outcomes is determined).**

## **Commitment to Learning**

**Learning is a lifelong process. By being committed to learning you are providing a model for all to follow. This model is not only professor to student but involves all combinations of people within our university and broader community**

Adherence to this compact is required of the faculty and staff of the College of Natural Resources and of all students enrolled in College of Natural Resources courses.