

BI 290 Fisheries and Wildlife Seminar

Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Diana Lafferty
New Science 2011
906-227-2227
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Class Meeting: Wednesday 5:00-5:50 JAMR3313

Office Hours: Mon. 8-9, 11-12, 2-4, Tu. 8-10, Wed. 9-10 or by appointment

Prerequisites: BI 111, BI 112

My commitment to diversity and inclusion: I want to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe Nation and that the Anishinaabe people are among the First Peoples of the Great Lakes. In addition, I believe the diversity all students bring to my classroom is a resource, strength, and benefit to our shared pursuit of scientific knowledge. My goal is that the learning needs of students from all backgrounds and perspectives will be well served in my classroom and that all students in my class are supportive and respectful of the diversity represented here: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, immigration status and religion. Further, I believe that all people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. As such, please let me know the name you prefer to be called as well as your preferred pronouns and I will do my best to refer to all students accordingly and support your fellow classmates in doing so as well. If my academic schedule conflicts with any of your religious events, let me know so that I can make arrangements for you to not miss out important activities and assignments. Please let me know if/how I can make you feel more welcome, valued and supported in our shared pursuit of ecological knowledge.

Sincerely, Dr. Lafferty

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the Fisheries and Wildlife profession. The course will be split into sections which cover the history of Fish and Wildlife management, a synopsis for how and who manages fish and wildlife, and the tools to develop and build the professional skills necessary to become a fisheries and wildlife professional. In addition, a large portion of the class is focused on providing you with opportunities to hear from and interact with Natural Resources professional from a variety of backgrounds. Through this course you'll receive practical training and advice on how to make the most of your education at NMU, job seeking, professional networking, and career development. *By the conclusion of the course will have developed a professional resume and cover letter, applied for seasonal natural resources position, conducted and participated in a professional interview, and developed a career plan.*

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop a career plan to guide and plan your professional journey
- Develop skills to find internship, graduate student opportunities, seasonal and full-time employment
- Construct a professional resume and C.V.
- Apply for a seasonal natural resources/fish and wildlife position
- Prepare for and participate in a mock-professional interview
- Interact with actual fisheries and wildlife professionals to learn the diversity of pathways which lead to a career in natural resources management

TEXTBOOK

- Hewitt, D. A., W. E. Pine III, and A. V. Zale, editors. 2006. The AFS guide to fisheries employment. Second edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda Maryland, USA.
- Henke, S. E., and P. R. Krausman, editors. 2017. Becoming a Wildlife Professional. The Wildlife Society. Baltimore Maryland, USA.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings Assignments	
		TWS	AFS
15-January	Introduction	1,2	1
22-January	Resume, CV, cover Letters	3,7	2
29-January	Landing a job & applying for internships		
5-February	Becoming a professional, skill development, communication	6,9,12	14,15
12-February	Speaker: Kevin Swanson – The Nature Conservancy	4	4
19-February	Speaker: Ed Baker – MI Department of Natural Resources	4	5
26-February	Speaker: Janet Kudell-Ekstrum US Forest Service	4	4
4-March	Mid-semester break	--	--
11-March	The Professional Interview & People Management	8	
18-March	Speaker: Dean Beyer – MI Department of Natural Resources	4	11
25-March	Speaker: Martha Gerig – MI Sea Grant	4	11
1-April	Speaker: Jeremy Sergey – MI Conservation Officer	4	4
8-April	Speaker: Shawn Nowicki – US Fish and Wildlife Service	4	5
15-April	Looking forward → Graduate studies and graduate student panel	10,11	
22-April	Speaker: Christie Deloria – US Fish and Wildlife Service		

ASSIGNMENTS	Points	Due Date
Journal entry #1	5	Jan 24
Journal entry #2	5	Jan 31
Peer-review resume & cover letter	5	Feb 5
Journal entry #3	5	Feb 7
3-Questions prior to class – Kevin Swanson – The Nature Conservancy	3	Feb 12
3-Questions prior to class – Ed Baker – MI Department of Natural Resources	3	Feb 19
Resume and cover letter	15	Feb 19
3-Questions prior to class – Janet Kundell-Ekstrum – US Forest Service	3	Feb 26
Mid-semester break	----	----
3-Questions prior to class – Dean Beyer – MI Department of Natural Resources	3	Mar 18
Job posting/internship questions & answers	1	Mar 18
3-Questions prior to class – Martha Gerig – MI Sea Grant	3	Mar 25
Job/Internship application	10	Mar 25
3-Questions prior to class – Jeremy Sergey – MI Conservation Officer	3	Apr 1
Journal entry #4	5	Apr 1
3-Questions prior to class – Shawn Nowicki – US Fish and Wildlife Service	3	Apr 8
3-Questions prior to class – Graduate student panel	3	Apr 15
3-Questions prior to class – Christie Deloria – US Fish and Wildlife Service	3	Apr 22
Career plan outline	10	Apr 22
Mock interview	9	TBD
In-class participation (verbally contributing to class on at least 3 occasions)	3	Throughout
Total	100 Points	

GRADING: Standard NMU grading scale. Point value and % for assignments is below.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

JOURNAL ENTRY

Four times during the semester you'll be required to submit a journal entry via EduCat based on the previous class periods and readings. The idea is for you to reflect and relate the material that we covered to your future career path as a fish and wildlife professional. Specifically please write about: What did you learn? What did you not agree with? What was confusing? How did the material presented influence your ideas for your future career? Also, consider posing your own questions and sharing your personal ideas about the material and how it made you feel in regards to your future professional plans.

RESUME AND COVER LETTER

You will develop a resume and cover letter that is based on your education, work experience, and volunteer experience. The resume you develop will be used to apply for a seasonal natural resources position. We will discuss the desired template and format of resume and cover letters in class. You will also conduct a peer review for one of your classmates resume. This exercise is designed to increase your critical reading and editing skills.

SPEAKER QUESTIONS

To maximize your learning and development as fish and wildlife professionals it is essential that you become comfortable asking questions. Being curious/inquisitive is a trait that is highly valued by potential employers and is an essential trait to develop further. As such, you are responsible for submitting three questions via EduCat prior to each class period when a guest lecturer will be giving a presentation. Each guest lecturer will provide a ~40 minute presentation on her/his professional journey. You will have ~10 minutes to ask questions of each presenter related to their education background, professional journey, and current position. Participating in these discussions will benefit your participation grade.

CAREER PLAN

To become a fish and wildlife professional, you must have a plan of attack to prioritize what classes, skills, and experiences you need to achieve your career goals. For this exercise you will create a plan for the remainder of your time at NMU and describe what you need to do to obtain your first professional position.

MOCK INTERVIEW

Interviewing for positions is often the scariest part of applying for a job. It can feel like you are on the hot-seat and have little control over the outcome. During lecture I will introduce techniques for preparing and giving an interview to a prospective employer. To reinforce the topics covered in class, you will develop and participate in a 10 minute mock interview via Skype or Google Chat (sign up for an interview time slot with me). To receive points for this assignment, you are responsible for the following:

- 1) Provide me a job posting for the job to which you are applying (written)
- 2) Provide me a suite of appropriate questions that someone interviewing for this of position may be asked (and provide me compelling answers to these questions (written)
- 3) Participate in the mock interview (oral), demonstrating preparedness and professionalism

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION

You will be submitting a variety of assignments for grading in this course. Each week, you will be expected to comment on the week's activities (readings, speakers, exercises) in an online journal. In addition, you will be preparing a professional resume and also participating in mock interviews. You will also be graded on general course participation.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for this course. While I do not explicitly check attendance, there are numerous assignments/exercises that are only available to those attending class and may not be made up by those not attending. If you have a University-approved conflict/reason for missing class, please see inform me of the situation prior to class and we will make alternative arrangements for the material/assignment(s) you will miss. However, if do not make arrangements prior to missing class, you will not be permitted to make up the assignments.

CHEATING

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Assessment of cheating is at the discretion of the instructor. For the first offense, a student who cheats will receive either an F or a zero for the assignment, at my discretion. In any further incidents, the student will receive an F for the course. Additionally, cheating will be reported to the University administration. Plagiarism, including plagiarism of ideas, is a form of cheating. As we go through this course, make sure that you are comfortable and confident of the difference between plagiarism and collaboration with your peers. When in doubt, discuss it with me.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION

If you feel that you are having difficulty understanding the material or have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact the instructor. If my office hours are not convenient, please make an appointment for another time or contact me using email. I cannot assist you if you do not get in touch with me and seek assistance.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Northern Michigan University does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, familial status, handicap/disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status in employment or the provision of services, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. Anyone having civil rights inquiries may contact the Equal Opportunity Office, 502 Cohodas Hall, telephone number 906-227-2420.

ADA STATEMENT

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.