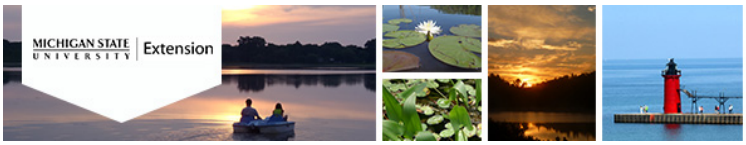

Introduction to Lakes Online Course

Course Syllabus

Overview

Inland lakes are complex ecosystems and are impacted by both the people that live near them as well as the water that drains into them. They can provide enormous economic resources to an area but also serve as the center of political disputes. Michigan alone is blessed with over 11,000 inland lakes, each providing unique recreational, scenic, and environmental benefits.

Introduction to Lakes will explore the many dimensions of inland lakes—including riparian rights, shorelines, ecology, aquatic plants, citizen involvement, and much more! The only prerequisite required is a passion for inland lakes!

Course Content

Introduction to Lakes consists of six units. Each unit includes video lectures, facilitated discussion forums, exploratory activities, and a quiz. The highlight of Introduction to Lakes are the video lectures, featuring water resource experts from Michigan State University Extension. All lecture videos have captions. The discussion forums serve as an opportunity to comment on content and interact with classmates and instructors. There are no right or wrong answers - forums are simply a place to share perspectives and pose questions. Quizzes are short, concise, and related to content in the videos, discussion forum, and activities. The course also includes three pre-scheduled ask-an-expert webinars, featuring experts on unit topics.

Student Expectations

Access to materials will be provided on a week-by-week, unit-by-unit basis with each new unit opening on Tuesday at 8:00 AM eastern. The course site will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Course instruction will be provided via Michigan State University's D2L course management interface. Each unit will take approximately 3-5 hours to complete. It is expected that you will complete all course work for the assigned unit per week. Each week a new unit will become available in D2L. You will not have access to all units at once. Your access to proceeding units will be based on completion of the previous unit's quiz. Once a unit is available to view, it will remain open.

The goal of this course is to become more familiar with inland lakes and to learn from the instructors, as well as from other classmates. It is recommended that you review and respond to other participant discussion forum submissions.

Course Instructors

Bindu Bhakta | Natural Resources Educator, MSU Extension

- B.S., Resource Ecology Management and Anthropology-Zoology, University of Michigan
- M.P.S., Agriculture, Horticulture, Cornell University

Erick Elgin | Water Resources Educator, MSU Extension

- B.S., Water Resource Management and Natural Resource Management, University of Minnesota
- M.S., Aquatic Ecology, University of Calgary

Paige Filice | Natural Resources Educator, MSU Extension

- B.A., Conservation Leadership, Lake Superior State University
- M.S., Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

Jane Herbert | Senior Water Resources Educator *(retired)*, MSU Extension

- B.S., Natural Resources (Fisheries), University of Michigan
- M.S., Agriculture and Extension Education, Michigan State University

Dr. Jo Latimore | Faculty and Outreach Specialist, MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

- B.A., Biology, Albion College
- M.S., Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame
- Ph.D., Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

Brad Neumann | Government and Public Policy Educator, MSU Extension

- B.S., Land Use Planning and Economics, Northern Michigan University
- M.S., Natural Resource Economics and Policy, University of Maine

Mary Reilly | Government and Public Policy Educator, MSU Extension

- B.S., Natural Resources and Ecology, University of Michigan
- M.S., Community and Regional Planning, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Lois Wolfson | Water Quality Senior Specialist, MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Institute of Water Research

- M.S., Botany, Michigan State University
- Ph.D., Fisheries and Wildlife (Limnology), Michigan State University

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Description
1	Lake Ecology	Analysis of factors that influence lake ecosystems and exploration of basic lake functions
2	Watersheds	Primer on the water cycle, hydrologic features of a watershed, and land use practices and implications for water quality
3	Shorelines	Review of shoreline features and functions in inland lake ecosystems and shoreline practices to protect water quality
4	Water Law	Summary of federal, state, and local laws regarding riparian rights, navigability, and permitting on inland lakes in Michigan
5	Aquatic Plants	Introduction to plant identification, short- and long-term management techniques, and regulations regarding aquatic vegetation in lakes
6	Promoting Community Involvement	Review of institutions involved in lake management, coordinating with other lake groups, and components of a lake management plan
Ask-an-Expert Webinars		
Week 2		Lake ecology and watershed management
Week 4		Natural shorelines and Michigan water law
Week 6		Aquatic plants and citizen involvement

Course Requirements

To receive a certificate of completion you must receive an 80% or higher on each unit quiz. Note that you will have the ability to retake quizzes. It is expected that you will watch all video lectures and complete the activities.

Technology Requirements

The course will contain links to other websites and documents, some of which are in PDF format. It is recommended that you have the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. The webinars utilize Zoom, a free video conferencing service. Instructions on how to download and use Zoom can be found in the course.

Contacting the Instructors

If you have questions for the instructors use the "Questions for the Instructors" discussion forum in the "Getting Started" section of D2L.

Course Policies

- **Your participation:** For each unit you are expected to watch the video lectures, participate actively in discussion forums, complete all activities, and score an 80% or higher on all unit quizzes.
- **Interaction from instructors:** The self-paced, online nature of this course allows for online communication with course instructors through facilitated discussion forums as well as three pre-scheduled Ask-an-Expert webinars.

- **Desire2Learn Code of Conduct:** MSU expects that you will respect the rights of faculty and other students as you participate in the educational process. Participating in a Desire2Learn course means that you may have access to personal information and academic work produced by other students and faculty members, such as discussion board postings, drafts of papers and other work produced in the course. Academic norms and MSU policy require that you must not reveal any information about classmates, course work content, or its authors to anyone outside the course.