DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE: ENS 494: Environmental Science Capstone
1 Credit Hours – spring Semester
Pre- or co-requisite(s): Completion of 4 credits of ENS 498 and senior standing in Environmental Science or permission of instructor.

SCOPE:

1. Level of Instruction:

2. ENS 494 is a capstone course for the Environmental Science program, assisting students in completing the written report for their senior synthesis project.

3. Relation to curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. ENS 494 is required for Environmental Science students prior to graduation. It facilitates completion of the written component of the senior synthesis requirement.
   b. Shared resource requirements: none.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course the student should be able to:

Access supporting information relevant to their project from the library and other sources.
Adequately describe methodology used for data collection and analysis.
Apply appropriate statistical/analytical tools to their data.
Interpret their results in the context of the current scientific literature.
Communicate findings to peers both orally and in writing and respond to questions.

MAJOR CONCEPTS OR METHODOLOGIES:

This course will assist students in fulfilling the senior synthesis portion of their degree requirement and will provide oversight and quality control over the process. Students are expected to be nearing completion of some form of independent research or internship experience. This course will be instrumental in helping them to present their results in an acceptable written format.

The writing process will be presented in sequential components in order to make it more manageable: review of literature/information to provide context, identification of objectives, description of analytical procedures, effective summarization of results, and discussion of results in a broader context. Each of these discrete components will be integrated at the end of the course into the completed senior synthesis paper. Feedback will be provided by the faculty advisor, the course instructor, and groups of students in the course. Students will design and present a short (15 minute) presentation of their research to the class. Students will be graded on their final written and oral products. If time permits, resume writing, interviewing skills, and job search strategies will be discussed.

Materials and Software

Students will need computers with high speed Internet access. There is no textbook; all reading and viewing materials will be provided. Students will need access to software (e.g., Adobe Flash Player, Acrobat Reader, Microsoft Office).

Course Structure:
This course will be taught in sections, each focusing on a particular aspect of writing as noted in the section above. Each weekly meeting will focus on strategies around that week’s topic. The resources of the Writing Center and the Career Center will be utilized to expand the expertise available to students.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ENS 494 Capstone Seminar (1)

1 hour of lecture/discussion per week. Support and instruction for completion and presentation of the senior synthesis project for Environmental Science. Topics include research skills and literature review, data analysis, scientific writing including editing, and oral presentation. Research or internship must be nearly or fully completed.

Prerequisite(s): none

COURSE HISTORY:

This course has been offered as FOR 496 Spring of 2011 and ESC 496 Fall of 2011. Revised 1/4/12, course prefix changed administratively.