

*Course Outline*

EST 494

# **SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**David A. Sonnenfeld**, Instructor  
*Department of Environmental Studies*  
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

*Spring 2011, W 4-6 pm (every other week)*

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **Overview**

Seminar for Environmental Studies majors planning to graduate in May or December 2011. Students explore internship, job, and career opportunities; consider options for advanced study; prepare portfolios illustrating their work and accomplishments in the major; prepare and present a research-style poster\* on their senior synthesis project. Additional activities include résumé preparation, small group discussion, peer feedback. Guest speakers and panels highlight career development, preparation for graduate studies, social networking, and more.

### **Objectives**

By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Access information on relevant career, job, internship and graduate school opportunities;
- Prepare a professional résumé;
- Utilize various social networks for professional and career development; and
- Assemble, organize and reflect on their work as Environmental Studies students;
- Effectively communicate about their senior synthesis project (completed, in-progress, or forthcoming), both orally and in research-style poster form.

### **Requirements**

- Attend all class sessions;
- Prepare a professional résumé;
- Develop a comprehensive portfolio of written and other materials produced as an Environmental Studies major;
- Prepare a research-style poster on the senior synthesis project; and
- Give a presentation on the senior synthesis project, utilizing the poster.

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\* *Note:* a modest printing charge (est. \$7-10) will be incurred at the ESF Computing Center for the poster.

## Grading

Each of the following will contribute 1/3<sup>rd</sup> to the course grade:

- Environmental Studies portfolio, including reflective essay
- Senior synthesis project poster & presentation, in equal parts
- Assignments #1, 3, 8; attendance and participation

## Communication

Office: 211B Marshall

Hrs.: TuTh 2-3:30 pm, & by appointment

Tel. 315.470.4931/ 6636, fax 315.470.6915

E-mail: <dsonn@esf.edu>

URL: <http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld>

## READING

### Recommended

Cassio, Jim, and Alice Rush. 2009. *Green Careers: Choosing Work for a Sustainable Future*. Gabriola Is., BC: New Society Publishers. ISBN 0865716439

Llewellyn, A. Bronwyn, James P. Hendrix, and K.C. Golden. 2008. *Green Jobs: A Guide to Eco-Friendly Employment*. Avon, MA: Adams Media. ISBN 1598698729

Rosenberg, Arthur. 2007. *The Resume Handbook*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Avon, MA: Adams Media. ISBN 1598694596

Pollack, Lindsey. 2007. *Getting from College to Career: 90 Things to Do Before You Join the Real World*. New York: Harper. ISBN 006114259X

### Bookstore

Follett's Orange Bookstore, Marshall Square Mall, 720 University Ave., tel. 478.6821

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1 (Jan. 19) – Getting started

Course introduction; getting to know each other

What is an Environmental Studies portfolio?

What are the requirements of the Environmental Studies synthesis project?

What makes a good résumé?

RECOMMENDED:

Cassio and Rush, *Green Careers*

Llewellyn, et al. *Green Jobs*

## ADDITIONAL:

Greenland, Paul R., and AnnaMarie L. Sheldon. 2007. *Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment*. New York: Ferguson Publishing. ISBN 0816067422

\*\*\* Complete & submit student info sheet (in class) \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #1: Professional résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 3 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #2: Senior synthesis project, *abstract* (1 p.) – due Wk 3 \*\*\*

**Week 3 (Feb. 2) – Finding a job/ internship**

Job & internship resources at ESF and beyond; interview/ application skills

What types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors?  
What are you looking for?

Résumé feedback & critiques

## RECOMMENDED:

Rosenberg, *The Resume Handbook*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

\*\*\* Assignment #3: apply for at least one job or internship; bring copies of the position description and your letter of application – due Wk 5 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #4: Environmental Studies portfolio, *table of contents* – due Wk 5 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #5: Senior synthesis project, *report outline* – due Wk 5 \*\*\*

**Week 5 (Feb. 16) – Producing an outstanding portfolio**

What makes an outstanding Environmental Studies portfolio? Taking your portfolio to the next level

Feedback on senior synthesis project outlines (small groups)

Discussion and feedback on job/ internship application experience (small groups)

\*\*\* Assignment #6: Environmental Studies portfolio, *reflective essay/ introductory overview* – due Wk 7 \*\*\*

**Week 7 (Mar. 2) – Should I go to graduate school?**

Thinking about graduate school

You don't have to go right away

*The value of lived experience*

*Intermediate, helpful steps*

*See the world/ broaden your horizons: join the Peace Corps?*

When you're ready: Where to go? Whom to work with?

### The application process

*The Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*

*Statement of Academic Objectives*

*Biographical Essay*

*Letters of Recommendation*

How to pay for grad school?

The experience of graduate school

\*\*\* Assignment #7: Environmental Studies portfolio, *complete* – due Wk 9 \*\*\*

### **Week 9 (Mar. 23) – Building your social capital**

Social networking

Becoming an ESF alumnus; what to look forward to; leveraging your college connections

RECOMMENDED:

Pollack, *Getting from College to Career*

\*\*\* Assignment #8: (a) Complete your professional profile on LinkedIn; (b) Make at least one job/internship inquiry via LinkedIn; (c) Bring print-outs of your profile & inquiry to class – due Wk 11 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #9: Prepare a research-style poster for your senior synthesis project – due Wk 11 \*\*\*

### **Weeks 11 (Apr. 6) and 13 (Apr. 20) – Senior synthesis project presentations**

Present research-style posters on your senior synthesis project, consisting of one of the following:

- Internship
- Course-based synthesis
- Synthesis paper

### **ESF Academic Showcase**

Poster presentations

## Matrix of Activities

**EST 494, Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies**

David Sonnenfeld, Instructor

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF

Spring 2011

every other Wednesday, 4-6 pm

	<b>Week 1, Jan. 20</b>	<b>Week 3, Feb. 3</b>	<b>Week 5, Feb. 17</b>	<b>Week 7, Mar. 3</b>	<b>Week 9, Mar. 24</b>	<b>Week 11, Apr. 7</b>	<b>Week 13, Apr. 21</b>
<b>Primary topic</b>	Getting started	Finding a job or internship	Producing an outstanding Environmental Studies portfolio	Should I go to graduate school?	Building your social capital	Senior synthesis project poster presentations	Senior synthesis project poster presentations
<b>What comes next?</b>	What makes a good resume?	Looking for a job/ internship: resources, applications, interviewing ***Résumé due***	***Apply for at least one job or internship***	Getting ready for graduate school: GRE, letters of recommendation, where to go, personal essay, plan of study, &tc.	Building, developing, strengthening your social networks; becoming an ESF alumnus	***(1) Complete your professional profile on LinkedIn.com; (2) make at least one job/ internship inquiry***	
<b>Portfolio development</b>	What is (in) a portfolio?		What makes a strong portfolio? ***Portfolio contents due***	***Reflective essay/ introductory overview due***	***Completed portfolio due***		
<b>Senior synthesis project</b>	What are the requirements?	*** Topic due ***	Tips for preparing an outstanding research-style poster for your synthesis project ***Synthesis Project Outlines due***			***Poster Presentations***	***Poster Presentations***
<b>Activities</b>	Complete student info sheet	Small groups: resume feedback & critique	Small groups: (1) feedback on synthesis project outlines; (2) discussion and feedback on job/ internship application process	Grad school panels: (1) ES Faculty; (2) How to pay for it?; (3) ES grad students	(1) Social networking workshop; (2) ES alumni panel	Student "buddy" comments on presentations	(1) Student "buddy" comments on presentations; (2) Poster presentations in ESF Academic Showcase