

Working Outline

EST 494

SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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

Spring 2010, W 4-6 pm (every other week)

DESCRIPTION

Overview

Seminar for Environmental Studies (ES) majors who are planning to graduate in May or December 2010. 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. Each ES student will be assigned an ES alumnus as a mentor.

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, including the ES Alumni Mentoring Network; and
- Assemble, organize and reflect on their work as Environmental Studies students;
- Effectively communicate the results of their senior synthesis project, 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 poster presentation on the senior synthesis project.

Grading

Each of the following will contribute 1/3 of the course grade:

- Environmental Studies portfolio, including reflective essay
- Senior synthesis project research-style poster & presentation
- Assignments #1, 3, 4, 9; attendance and participation

Communication

Office: 106 Marshall
Hrs.: M 3-5 pm, W 2-3:30 pm, & by appointment
Tel. 315.470.6636, 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*. 5th 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. 20) – Getting started

- a) Course introduction; getting to know each other
- b) *Presentation*: What is an Environmental Studies portfolio? (Lawler/ Whitmore)
- c) *Presentation*: What are the requirements of the Environmental Studies synthesis project? (Smardon/ Meisner)
- d) *Skills workshop*: What makes a good résumé? (John Turbeville)

RECOMMENDED:

Cassio and Rush, *Green Careers*

Llewellyn, et al. *Green Jobs*

*** 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. 3) – Finding a job/ internship

a) *Resources workshop*: Job & internship resources at ESF and beyond; interview/ application skills (John Turbeville)

b) *Employers panel*: What types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors? What are you looking for? (local employers)

c) *Small groups*: Résumé feedback & critiques

d) ES majors: receive your ES Alumni Mentor assignment

RECOMMENDED:

Rosenberg, *The Resume Handbook*, 5th ed.

*** Assignment #3: contact your ES Alumni Mentor; set up a meeting ***

*** Assignment #4: apply for at least one job or internship; bring copies of the position description and a copy of your letter of application to the next class ***

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

*** Assignment #6: Senior synthesis project, *report outline* – due Wk 5 ***

Week 5 (Feb. 17) – Producing an outstanding portfolio

a) *Workshop*: What makes an outstanding Environmental Studies portfolio? Taking your portfolio to the next level (Lawler/ Whitmore)

a) *Small groups*: Feedback on senior synthesis project outlines

b) *Small groups*: Discussion and feedback on job/ internship application experience

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

Week 7 (Mar. 3) – Should I go to graduate school?

a) *Faculty panel*: thinking about graduate school (Manno/ C. Hall, ES Faculty)

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

b) How to pay for grad school? (Vandeburg)

c) *Grad student panel*: the experience of graduate school (ES & ES-affiliated graduate students)

*** Assignment #8: Environmental Studies portfolio, *complete* – due Wk 9 ***

Week 9 (Mar. 24) – Building your social capital

a) *Workshop* on social networking (Otteson, Turbeville, Culkowski)

b) *ES alumni panel*: becoming an ESF alumnus; what to look forward to; leveraging your college connections

RECOMMENDED:

Pollack, *Getting from College to Career*

*** Assignment #9: (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 #10: Prepare a research-style poster for your senior synthesis project – due Wk 11 ***

Weeks 11 (Apr. 7), & 13 (Apr. 21) – 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

ES Alumni Mentors invited to hear & provide feedback on your presentations

ESF Academic Showcase

Poster presentations

Course Outline

EST 494, Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies

David Sonnenfeld, Instructor/ Facilitator

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF

Spring 2010

every other Wednesday, 4-6 pm

	Week 1, Jan. 20	Week 3, Feb. 3	Week 5, Feb. 17	Week 7, Mar. 3	Week 9, Mar. 24	Week 11, Apr. 7	Week 13, Apr. 21
Primary topic	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
What comes next?	What makes a good resume? (Turbeville) ***Read <i>The Green Collar Economy</i> ***	Looking for a job/ internship: resources, applications, interviewing (Turbeville) ***Résumé due***	*** (1) Apply for at least one job or internship. (2) ES majors: meet with your ES Alumni Mentor***	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***	
Portfolio development	What is (in) a portfolio? (Lawler/ Whitmore)		What makes a strong portfolio? (Lawler/ Whitmore) ***Portfolio contents due***	***Reflective essay/ introductory overview due***	***Completed portfolio due***		
Senior synthesis project	What are the requirements? (Smardon/ Meisner)	*** Topic due ***	Tips for preparing an outstanding research-style poster for your synthesis project (APM255 Instructor) ***Synthesis Project Outlines due***			***Poster Presentations***	***Poster Presentations***
Activities	Complete student info sheet	(1) Resources workshop; (2) Employers panel; (3) Small groups: resume feedback & critique; (4) ES majors: receive your Alumni Mentor assignment	(1) Small groups: feedback on synthesis project outlines; (2) Small groups: discussion and feedback on job/ internship application process	Grad school panels: (1) Manno, C. Hall, ES Faculty; (2) How to pay for it? (Vandenburg); (3) ES grad students	(1) Social networking workshop (Otteson, Turbeville, Culkowski); (2) ES alumni panel	ES Alumni Mentors & student "buddy" comments on presentations	(1) ES Alumni Mentors & student "buddy" comments on presentations; (2) Poster presentations in ESF Academic Showcase
Guests	Turbeville; Lawler/ Whitmore; Smardon/ Meisner	Turbeville; Employers	Lawler/ Whitmore; APM 255 Instructor	Manno, C. Hall, ES Faculty; Vandenburg; ES Grad Students	Otteson; Turbeville; Culkowski; ES Alumni		