

*Course Outline*

EST 494

# **SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

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*Department of Environmental Studies*  
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

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

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **Overview**

Pre-graduation seminar for Environmental Studies (ES) seniors. Students explore career, job and internship 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. ES majors 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.: TBD

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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

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

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

### Bookstore

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

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1 – Getting started

Course introduction; getting to know each other

Presentation: What are the contents of an Environmental Studies major's portfolio? (Lawler/ Whitmore)

Presentation: What are the requirements of the Environmental Studies synthesis project? (Smardon/ Meisner)

Skills workshop: what makes a good résumé? (John Turbeville)

RECOMMENDED:

Cassio and Rush, *Green Careers*

Llewellyn, et al. *Green Jobs*

**Week 3 – What comes next: finding a job/ internship**

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

Employers panel: what types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors? what are we looking for? (Employers)

Small groups: résumé feedback & critiques

ES majors: receive your ES Alumni Mentor assignment

RECOMMENDED:

Rosenberg, *The Resume Handbook*

\*\*\* Assignment #1 due: 1-2 pp. professional résumé \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #2 due: 1 p. abstract for senior synthesis project \*\*\*

**Week 5 – What makes a strong portfolio? Taking your academic portfolio to the next level**

(Guests: Lawler/ Whitmore)

Small groups: feedback on senior synthesis project outlines

Small groups: discussion and feedback on job/internship application experience

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

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

\*\*\* Assignment #5 due: table of contents for student portfolio \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #6 due: senior synthesis project report outline due \*\*\*

**Week 7 – Preparing for graduate school**

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

How to pay for it? (Vandeburg)

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

\*\*\* Assignment #7 due: reflective essay/ introductory overview for portfolio \*\*\*

### **Week 9 – Building your social capital**

Social networking workshop (Otteson, Turbeville, Culkowski)

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

RECOMMENDED:

Pollack, *Getting from College to Career*

\*\*\* Assignment #8 due: completed Environmental Studies portfolio \*\*\*

### **Weeks 11, 13 – ES senior synthesis project poster presentations**

- Internships
- Course-based synthesis
- Synthesis paper

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

\*\*\* Assignment #9 due: complete your professional profile on LinkedIn; make at least one job/internship inquiry via LinkedIn; bring print-outs of your profile & inquiry to class \*\*\*

\*\*\* Assignment #10 due: completed senior synthesis project research-style poster \*\*\*

### **ESF Academic Showcase**

Poster presentations

## Course Outline (DRAFT)

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

David Sonnenfeld, Instructor/ Facilitator

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF

Spring 2010

Wednesdays, 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	Jobs & Internships	The ES Major: Final Products	Grad School	Building your social capital (BFF, professional networks)	Sr. Synthesis Project Poster Presentations	Sr. Synthesis Project Poster Presentations
<b>What comes next?</b>	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, &tr	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? (Lawler/ Whitmore)		What makes a strong portfolio? (Lawler/ Whitmore) ***Portfolio contents due***	***Reflective essay/ introductory overview due***	***Completed portfolio due***		
<b>Senior synthesis project</b>	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***
<b>Activities</b>	Small group discussion of <i>The Green Collar Economy</i>	(1) Jobs & internship panel; (2) Small groups: resume feedback & critique; (3) 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) 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
<b>Guests</b>	Turbeville; Lawler/ Whitmore; Smardon/ Meisner	Turbeville; Employers	Lawler/ Whitmore; APM 255 Instructor	Manno, C. Hall, ES Faculty; Vandeburg; ES Grad Students	Paul Otteson; John Turbeville; Justin Culkowski; ES Alumni		