EST 696, International Environmental Policy Consultancy (3-4 cr)

David A. Sonnenfeld, Ph.D., Instructor

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF
TuTh 8-9:20 am, Baker 141

Fall 2015

An innovative, collaborative, applied course and practicum in environmental policy consultation at the global level. Linked via distance learning technologies with students in a parallel course in the Netherlands, students will take up a semester-long consultancy project ('commission') with the Policy and Analysis Branch, United Nations Division for Sustainable Development ('client'). Students will learn key environmental policy consulting skills, such as issue definition and stakeholder identification; proposal preparation, team building and leadership skills; data collection, analysis and interpretation; report writing and presentation skills. With colleagues at Wageningen University, students will fulfill the client's Terms of Reference, producing and delivering contributions towards a final report and related products. This year, students will engage in 'horizon scanning' for, and systematic analysis of, new potentially high-impact scientific findings and technological solutions in the nexus of issues involving oceans, marine resources, biodiversity, nutrition, and livelihoods, especially as related to global sustainable development. Final report preparation and delivery in collaboration with students from the Netherlands will continue through finals week, in lieu of a final examination. Course grades will be submitted after receipt of the client's evaluation in early January. Maximum enrollment: 10 students. Instructor's permission required.

For further information, please contact Prof. David Sonnenfeld at <dsonn@esf.edu>