Course Outline

EST 494

SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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Dept. of Environmental Studies
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

Spring 2015, M 4-6 pm (every other week), Bray 321

DESCRIPTION

Overview

This course provides an organized context for Environmental Studies majors to effectively (plan, implement and) professionally communicate about their Senior Synthesis Projects.* Students begin the course with Synthesis Projects in every stage of development, from beginning thoughts to completion. The course meets for two hours, every other week, culminating in the 2nd annual Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase, March 30, 2015, in the ESF Alumni Lounge. The Seniors Showcase, a juried event, is open to faculty, students, and the public (family and friends welcome!). As an added, secondary focus of the course, students gain knowledge, skills and resources to assist in the transition to professional life after graduation. This is accomplished through interaction with guest speakers, participation in the ESF Career Fair and other activities. The course is intended for Environmental Studies majors graduating in May or December 2015.

Objectives

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

• Effectively plan, implement and professionally communicate about her/ his Senior Synthesis Project, both orally and in research poster form;
• Prepare a professional résumé;
• Access ESF and other resources on job and internship opportunities; and
• Utilize a variety of social networks for professional and career development.

* For further information about the Environmental Studies Senior Synthesis Project requirement, see the Student Handbook, at: http://www.esf.edu/es/handbook/. (See the current version of the handbook for the most up-to-date guidelines.)
Requirements

- Attend all class sessions
- Prepare a research-style poster on the Senior Synthesis Project
- Participate in the Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase, orally presenting the research-style poster
- Submit the poster for presentation at ESF’s Spotlight on Research
- Prepare a professional résumé
- Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn
- Complete a short survey of Environmental Studies seniors

Recommended

Participation in the following ESF Career Services events:

- "ESF Career Fair" (Wed., Feb. 25, 10:30 am-3 pm, Gateway Center)
- "Etiquette Dinner" (TBA)

Grading

Senior synthesis project, 65 pts.
- Poster (55 pts.)
- Submission to ESF Spotlight on Research (10 pts.)
- ESF Spotlight on Research: acceptance and presentation (extra credit)

Professional and career development activities, 25 pts.
- Professional résumé (15 pts.)
- LinkedIn profile (10 pts.)
- ESF Career Services event participation (extra credit)

Attendance, participation & student survey, 10 pts.

TOTAL, 100 pts. (A= 100-93 pts.; B= 92-85 pts.; C= 84-77 pts.; D= 76-69 pts.; F= <69 pts.)

Communication

Office: 211B Marshall
Hrs.: M 12:30-1:50pm, Tu 4:00-5:20pm, & 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

Bookstore
ESF Virtual Bookstore, available via myESF. For further information see: http://www.esf.edu/students/books.htm

SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 12) – Getting started
Course introduction; getting to know each other
What are the requirements for the EST Senior Synthesis Project?

REQUIRED:
BS in Environmental Studies Student Handbook (sections on Senior Synthesis Project)
*** Complete & submit student info sheet (in class) ***
*** Assignment #1: Senior Synthesis Project abstract (1 p.) – due Wk 3 ***

Week 3 (Jan. 26) – From EST to ??? Green career paths
What types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors? What are you looking for?
Job & internship resources at ESF and beyond; application & interview skills
Graduate school: for whom and when?
Small groups: sharing Senior Synthesis Project topics

RECOMMENDED:
Pollack, Getting from College to Career, ch's 1-3
Cassio & Rush, Green Careers
Llewellyn, et al. Green Jobs

ADDITIONAL:
*** Assignment #2: Senior Synthesis Project outline – due Wk 5 ***

**Week 5 (Feb. 9) – Inside the job application and interview process**

Tips from local public, private, and not-for-profit organizational managers
Small groups: feedback on Senior Synthesis Project outlines

RECOMMENDED:
Pollack, *Getting from College to Career, ch's 7, 9*

*** Assignment #3A: Professional résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 7 ***

**Week 7 (Feb. 23) – Preparing an outstanding research poster**

Tips for preparing an outstanding research poster on your Senior Synthesis Project
Small groups: résumé feedback & critique

*** Wed. Feb. 25, ESF Career Fair ***

*** Assignment #3B: Revised résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 9 ***

*** Assignment #4: Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn – due Wk 9 ***

*** Assignment #5: Prepare a research poster on your Senior Synthesis Project – due Wk 11 ***

**Spring break (wk. of Mar. 9)**

**Week 9 (Mar. 16) – Building your social capital**

Building, developing & strengthening your social networks; 'brand yourself'
Becoming an ESF alumnus; what to look forward to; leveraging your college connections
Small groups: feedback on LinkedIn profiles

RECOMMENDED:
Pollack, *Getting from College to Career, ch's 4, 5, 8*

*** Assignment #6: Submit poster to ESF Spotlight on Research – deadline TBA ***

*** Assignment #7: Complete EST Student Survey ***

**Week 11 (Mar. 30) – Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase**

Presentation and judging of Senior Synthesis Project research-style posters

**Week 13 (Apr. 15/16) – ESF Spotlight on Research**

Presentation and judging of accepted posters