EST 690, International Environmental Policy Consultancy (3-4 cr*)

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

Fall 2018

An innovative, collaborative, applied course and group practicum in environmental policy consultation at the global level. Linked via distance learning technologies with students in a parallel course at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, students will take up a semester-long consultancy project ('commission') with the Policy and Analysis Branch of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development ('client'). Students learn group consulting skills including issue definition and stakeholder identification; proposal preparation, team building and leadership skills; data collection, analysis and interpretation; report writing and presentation skills.

With colleagues in the Netherlands, students will fulfill the client's Terms of Reference, producing and delivering an integrated set of natural or social science briefs for international policy makers related to one or both of two topics: i) ‘horizon scanning’ on implications of emergent, exponential technology clusters for sustainable development and governance; and ii) the theme of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality".

The Sustainable Development Goals to be covered under the latter theme are #4 (quality education), #8 (full employment, decent work, inclusive growth), #10 (reducing inequality), #13 (combating climate change), #16 (peace, justice & inclusive institutions) and #17 (revitalizing partnerships). Final report preparation and delivery in collaboration with students from the Netherlands will continue through Friday, December 21. 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 David Sonnenfeld <dsonn@esf.edu> or Sharon Moran <smoran@esf.edu>

* 4 cr recommended, through 12/21; 3 cr through regular end of semester.