Course Outline

EST 494

SENIOR SEMINAR
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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

Spring 2011, W 4-6 pm (every other week)

DESCRIPTION

Overview
Seminar for Environmental Studies majors planning to graduate in May or December 2011. 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.

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; and
• Assemble, organize and reflect on their work as Environmental Studies students;
• Effectively communicate about their senior synthesis project (completed, in-progress, or forthcoming), 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 presentation on the senior synthesis project, utilizing the poster.

* Note: a modest printing charge (est. $7-10) will be incurred at the ESF Computing Center for the poster.
Grading

Each of the following will contribute $\frac{1}{3}$rd to the course grade:

- Environmental Studies portfolio, including reflective essay
- Senior synthesis project poster & presentation, in equal parts
- Assignments #1, 3, 8; attendance and participation

Communication

Office: 211B Marshall
Hrs.: TuTh 2-3:30 pm, & 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

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

SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 19) – Getting started

Course introduction; getting to know each other
What is an Environmental Studies portfolio?
What are the requirements of the Environmental Studies synthesis project?
What makes a good résumé?

RECOMMENDED:
Cassio and Rush, *Green Careers*
Llewellyn, et al. *Green Jobs*
ADDITIONAL:

*** 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. 2) – Finding a job/ internship

Job & internship resources at ESF and beyond; interview/ application skills

What types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors?
What are you looking for?

Résumé feedback & critiques

RECOMMENDED:

*** Assignment #3: apply for at least one job or internship; bring copies of the position description and your letter of application – due Wk 5 ***

*** Assignment #4: Environmental Studies portfolio, table of contents – due Wk 5 ***

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

Week 5 (Feb. 16) – Producing an outstanding portfolio

What makes an outstanding Environmental Studies portfolio? Taking your portfolio to the next level

Feedback on senior synthesis project outlines (small groups)

Discussion and feedback on job/ internship application experience (small groups)

*** Assignment #6: Environmental Studies portfolio, reflective essay/ introductory overview – due Wk 7 ***

Week 7 (Mar. 2) – Should I go to graduate school?

Thinking about graduate school

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 grad school?

The experience of graduate school

*** Assignment #7: Environmental Studies portfolio, complete – due Wk 9 ***

**Week 9 (Mar. 23) – Building your social capital**

Social networking

Becoming an ESF alumnus; what to look forward to; leveraging your college connections

RECOMMENDED:
Pollack, Getting from College to Career

*** Assignment #8: (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 #9: Prepare a research-style poster for your senior synthesis project – due Wk 11 ***

**Weeks 11 (Apr. 6) and 13 (Apr. 20) – 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

**ESF Academic Showcase**

Poster presentations
### Matrix of Activities

**EST 494, Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies**  
David Sonnenfeld, Instructor  
Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF  
Spring 2011  
every other Wednesday, 4-6 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1, Jan. 20</th>
<th>Week 3, Feb. 3</th>
<th>Week 5, Feb. 17</th>
<th>Week 7, Mar. 3</th>
<th>Week 9, Mar. 24</th>
<th>Week 11, Apr. 7</th>
<th>Week 13, Apr. 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary topic</strong></td>
<td>Getting started</td>
<td>Finding a job or internship</td>
<td>Producing an outstanding Environmental Studies portfolio</td>
<td>Should I go to graduate school?</td>
<td>Building your social capital</td>
<td>Senior synthesis project poster presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What comes next?</strong></td>
<td>What makes a good resume?</td>
<td>Looking for a job/internship: resources, applications, interviewing <em><strong>Résumé due</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>Apply for at least one job or internship</strong></em></td>
<td>Getting ready for graduate school: GRE, letters of recommendation, where to go, personal essay, plan of study, &amp;tc.</td>
<td>Building, developing, strengthening your social networks; becoming an ESF alumnus</td>
<td><em><strong>(1) Complete your professional profile on LinkedIn.com; (2) make at least one job/internship inquiry</strong></em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portfolio development</strong></td>
<td>What is (in) a portfolio?</td>
<td>What makes a strong portfolio? <em><strong>Portfolio contents due</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>Reflective essay/introductory overview due</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>Completed portfolio due</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>Completed portfolio due</strong></em></td>
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<td><strong>Senior synthesis project</strong></td>
<td>What are the requirements?</td>
<td>*** Topic due ***</td>
<td>Tips for preparing an outstanding research-style poster for your synthesis project <em><strong>Synthesis Project Outlines due</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>Poster Presentations</strong></em></td>
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<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td>Complete student info sheet</td>
<td>Small groups: resume feedback &amp; critique</td>
<td>Small groups: (1) feedback on synthesis project outlines; (2) discussion and feedback on job/internship application process</td>
<td>Grad school panels: (1) ES Faculty; (2) How to pay for it?; (3) ES grad students</td>
<td>(1) Social networking workshop; (2) ES alumni panel</td>
<td>Student &quot;buddy&quot; comments on presentations</td>
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