Course Outline

EST 494
SENIOR SEMINAR
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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Dept. of Environmental Studies
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

Spring 2019, M 4-6 pm (every other week, beginning Jan. 28), Bray 313

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 fully completed. The course meets for two hours, every other week, and culminates in the 6th annual Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase, on April 15, 2019. A juried event, the Showcase is open to faculty, students and the general public – family and friends welcome! As an additional course feature, students gain knowledge, skills and resources to assist in the transition from college to professional life. 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 2019.

Objectives

By 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 campus 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 your Senior Synthesis Project
- Present that poster at the annual Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase event
- Prepare/ update/ refine your professional résumé
- Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn
- Complete a short (2-3 pp.) EST graduating senior self-assessment

Recommended

- Participation in the following ESF events, as available:
  - Career Services seminar series
  - Career Fair
  - Spotlight on Student Research
- Display your poster at the Environmental Studies Commencement Reception

Grading

Senior synthesis project, 55 pts.
- Research-style poster (35 pts.)
- Presentation at Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase (20 pts.)
- Presentation at the ESF Spotlight (extra credit)

Professional and career development activities, 20 pts.
- Professional résumé (10 pts.)
- LinkedIn profile (10 pts.)
- ESF Career Services event participation (extra credit)

EST graduating senior self-assessment, 15 pts.

Attendance & participation, 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.: TBA (beginning wk of Jan. 28)
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](http://www.esf.edu/students/books.htm)

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 3 (Jan. 28) – 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 5 ***

**Week 5 (Feb. 11) – From EST to ??? Green career paths**

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

[Casey Duffey] Job & internship resources at ESF and beyond; application & interview skills

[Faculty/ grad panel] Graduate school: for whom and when?

Small groups: sharing Senior Synthesis Project topics

**RECOMMENDED:**

Pollack, Getting from College to Career, ch's 1-3

**ADDITIONAL:**


*** Assignment #2: Senior Synthesis Project outline – due Wk 7 ***
Week 7 (Feb. 25) – 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

*** Resume review with ESF alumni, TBA ***
*** ESF Career Fair, TBA ***
*** Assignment #3: Graduating Senior Self-Assessment – due Mar. 8 ***
*** Assignment #4A: Professional résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 9 ***

Spring break (wk. of Mar. 11)

Week 9 (Mar. 18) – Preparing an outstanding research poster

Tips for preparing an outstanding research poster
Small groups: résumé feedback & critique

*** Assignment #4B: Revised résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 11 ***
*** Assignment #5: Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn – due Wk 11 ***
*** Assignment #6: Prepare a research poster on Senior Synthesis Project – due Wk 13 ***

Week 11 (Apr. 1) – 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 #7 (extra credit): Submit abstract to ESF Spotlight – due TBA ***

Week 13 (Apr. 15)* – Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase

Presentation and judging of Senior Synthesis Project research-style posters

TBA – ESF Spotlight on Student Research and Outreach

Presentation and judging of accepted posters

Commencement Weekend – Departmental Reception

* Tentative date, subject to change/confirmation.
NOTICES

Accommodations
SUNY-ESF works closely with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University in assisting students with learning and physical disabilities. If you think you may need accommodations in this course related to a disability, you may contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, tel. 315.470.6660, for assistance with the process. You may also contact ODS directly, Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, 315.443.4498, to schedule an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. To learn more about ODS, visit http://disabilityservices.syr.edu.

Fire alarm procedures
If a fire alarm sounds, exit the building immediately to the designated area for this course. Stay together as a class, until released. Take all personal belongings with you, including electronics, backpacks, coats and keys. Please let your instructor know in advance if you might have any special needs in case of a building evacuation. For further information, contact the Office of Student Affairs, tel. 315.470.6660.