Course Outline

EST 494

SENIOR SEMINAR
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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Dept. of Environmental Studies
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

Spring 2020, M 4-6 pm (every other week), Bray 313

DESCRIPTION

Overview

This course provides a structured context for Environmental Studies majors to (plan, implement and) professionally communicate about their Senior Synthesis Projects.* Students begin the course with Synthesis Projects in every stage of development, from first thoughts to fully complete. The course meets for two hours, every other week, and culminates in the 7th annual Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase, a juried event to be held April 6, 2020. The Showcase is open to ESF faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the general public – family and friends are most welcome! As an added course feature, students gain knowledge, skills and resources to assist in transitioning to professional life. This is accomplished through interaction with guest speakers, participation in ESF’s spring Career Fair, and other professional development activities. This course is for Environmental Studies majors planning to graduate in May or December 2020.

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 an up-to-date and compelling professional résumé;
- Access ESF and other resources for job and internship opportunities; and
- Make best use of social networks for professional and career development.

* For further information about the Senior Synthesis Project requirement, see the Student Handbook, at: http://www.esf.edu/es/handbook/.
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
- Prepare/ update/ refine your professional profile on LinkedIn
- Complete a short (2-3 pp.) EST graduating senior self-assessment

Recommended

- Participation in the following ESF events:
  - Career Services seminar series
  - Career Fair (Tues., Feb. 25)
  - Spotlight on Student Research (Tues., Mar. 31)
- Display your poster at the Environmental Studies spring commencement reception

Grading

Senior synthesis project, 50 pts.
- Research-style poster (35 pts.)
- Presentation at Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase (15 pts.)

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, 20 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: Marshall 211B
Hrs. M 1:30 – 3:30 pm, W 3:30 – 5:00 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
*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 1 (Jan. 13) – 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. 27) – From EST to ??? Green career paths
What types of internships and jobs are available for Environmental Studies majors? What are you looking for?

- ESF Career Services: “Job & internship resources”; application & interview skills
- EST 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 5 ***
Week 5 (Feb. 10) – Inside the job application and interview process

Employer panel: “Tips from local managers” – public, private, & not-for-profit perspectives

Small groups: feedback on Senior Synthesis Project outlines

RECOMMENDED:

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

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

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

Week 7 (Feb. 24) -- Building your social capital

Social networking panel: “Strengthening your social networks” – building, developing & strengthening your social networks; 'brand yourself'

Small groups: résumé feedback & critique

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

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

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

Lecture: “Tips for preparing an outstanding research poster”

Small groups: feedback on LinkedIn profiles

*** Assignment #5: Prepare a research poster on Senior Synthesis Project – due Wk 12 ***

Spring break (wk. of Mar. 16)

Week 10 (Mar. 23) – Becoming an ESF alumna/us

EST alumni panel: “Becoming an ESF alumnus” – what to look forward to; leveraging your college connections

RECOMMENDED:

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

Week 12 (Apr. 6) – Environmental Studies Seniors Showcase

Presentation and judging of Senior Synthesis Project research-style posters

*** Assignment #6: Graduating Senior Self-Assessment – due Friday, Apr. 17 ***

Spring Commencement – Departmental Reception
NOTICES

Accommodations
ESF works closely with Syracuse University’s Office of Disability Services (ODS) 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 Division of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, tel. 315.470.6660, for assistance with the process. You may also contact ODS directly at Room 309, 804 University Avenue; visit the ODS website; or call (315) 443-4498 or TDD: (315) 443-1371, for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting academic adjustments. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic adjustments and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since academic adjustments may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

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 Division of Student Affairs, tel. 315.470.6660.