Course Outline

EST 494

SENIOR SEMINAR
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

David A. Sonnenfeld, Ph.D., Instructor
Chao Jiang, Teaching Assistant (Part-time)

Dept. of Environmental Studies
SUNY-ESF, Syracuse

Spring 2013, M 4-6 pm (every other week), Marshall Auditorium

DESCRIPTION

Overview

This course provides a group context for students to effectively plan, (execute,) and communicate about their Sr. Synthesis Projects.* Students begin the course with Synthesis Projects in every stage of development, from early thoughts to completed. In the latter part of the course, students prepare and present research-style posters** on their respective Synthesis Projects. As an additional, secondary focus of the course, students gain knowledge, skills and resources to assist in the transition from college to professional life after graduation. The latter is accomplished through interaction with guest speakers, supplemented by participation in ESF Career Services' professional development series of workshops. For Environmental Studies majors expecting to graduate in May or December 2013.

Objectives

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

• Effectively plan, (execute,) and communicate about their senior synthesis project, both orally and in research-style poster form;
• Prepare a professional résumé;
• Access information on relevant job and internship opportunities; and
• Utilize various social networks for professional and career development.

* For further information about the EST Sr. Synthesis Project requirement, see the BS in Environmental Studies student handbook, at: http://www.esf.edu/es/handbook/. (The most up-to-date guidelines for the Sr. Synthesis Project are in the most recent version of the handbook.)

** A modest printing charge (est. $7-10) will be incurred at the ESF Computing Center for the poster.
Requirements

- Attend all class sessions;
- Prepare a research-style poster on the Sr. Synthesis Project;
- Give a poster presentation on the Sr. Synthesis Project;
- Submit the poster for presentation at ESF's Spotlight on Research;
- Prepare a professional résumé;
- Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn; and
- Complete a short EST student survey.

Recommended

Participation in ESF Career Services' professional development series of workshops:

- "Résumé and cover letter preparation," with Diane Carleton, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Thurs., Feb. 14, 4-5pm, Marshall Auditorium)
- "Preparing for the ESF Career Fair," with Dave White, NY Sea Grant (Thurs., Feb. 21, 4-5pm, Marshall Auditorium)
- "ESF Career Fair" (Wed., Feb. 27, 10:30am-3pm, Gateway Bldg.)
- "Etiquette Dinner" (Thurs., Mar. 7, TBA, SU Goldstein Alumni Center)

Grading

Senior synthesis project, 65 pts.
- Poster (35 pts.)
- Presentation (20 pts.)
- Submission to ESF Spotlight on Research (10 pts.)
- ESF Spotlight on Research acceptance (extra credit)

Professional and career development activities, 25 pts.
- Professional résumé (15 pts.)
- LinkedIn profile (10 pts.)
- ESF Career Center workshop/ Career Fair 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.: TBA & 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**

Syracuse University Bookstore, Schine Student Center, tel. 315.443.9900, [http://bookstore.syr.edu/](http://bookstore.syr.edu/)

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 (Jan. 14) – Getting started**

Course introduction; getting to know each other

What are the requirements for the EST Sr Synthesis Project?

**REQUIRED:**

BS in Environmental Studies Student Handbook (sections on Sr Synthesis Project)

*** Complete & submit student info sheet (in class) ***

*** Assignment #1: Sr. Synthesis Project, abstract (1 p.) – due Wk 3 ***

**Week 3 (Jan. 28) – 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?

**RECOMMENDED:**

Cassio and Rush, *Green Careers*

Llewellyn, et al. *Green Jobs*

**ADDITIONAL:**


*** Assignment #2: Sr. Synthesis Project, outline – due Wk 5 ***
Week 5 (Feb. 11) – Inside the job application and interview process

Tips from local public, private, and not-for-profit organizational managers

Small groups: feedback on Sr. Synthesis Project outlines

RECOMMENDED:

*** Thurs. Feb. 14, Career Services Workshop: Résumé and Cover Letter Writing ***
*** Thurs. Feb. 21, Career Services Workshop: Preparing for the Career Fair ***
*** Assignment #3A: Professional résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 7 ***

Week 7 (Feb. 25) – Preparing an outstanding research poster

Tips for preparing an outstanding research poster on your Sr. Synthesis Project

Small groups: professional résumé feedback & critique

*** Wed. Feb. 27, ESF Career Fair ***
*** Thurs. Mar. 7, Career Services Workshop: Etiquette Dinner ***
*** Assignment #3B: Revised résumé (1-2 pp.) – due Wk 9 ***
*** Assignment #4: Prepare a research poster on your Sr. Synthesis Project – due Wk 11 ***

Week 9 (Mar. 18) – 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

RECOMMENDED:
Pollack, *Getting from College to Career*

*** Assignment #5: Submit poster to ESF Spotlight on Research – deadline TBA ***
*** Assignment #6: Develop a professional profile on LinkedIn – due Wk 11 ***

Weeks 11 (Apr. 1) and 13 (Apr. 15) – Sr. Synthesis Project presentations

Poster presentations on your Sr. Synthesis Project

*** Assignment #7: Complete EST Student Survey – due Wk 13 ***

ESF Spotlight on Research

Poster presentations
Matrix of Activities

**EST 494, Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies**

David A. Sonnenfeld, Instructor

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF

Spring 2013, every other Monday, 4-6pm (plus special activities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1, Jan. 14</th>
<th>Week 3, Jan. 28</th>
<th>Week 5, Feb. 11</th>
<th>Week 7, Feb. 25</th>
<th>Week 9, Mar. 18</th>
<th>Week 11, Apr. 1</th>
<th>Week 13, Apr. 15</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary topic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Getting started: the EST Sr Synthesis Project</td>
<td>From EST to ??? Green career paths</td>
<td>Inside the job application and interview process</td>
<td>Preparing an outstanding research poster</td>
<td>Building your social capital</td>
<td>EST Sr Synthesis Project presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sr Synthesis Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) What are the requirements? (2) Related activities in this course</td>
<td>Sr Synthesis Project abstract completed</td>
<td>Sr Synthesis Project report outline completed</td>
<td>Tips for preparing an outstanding research poster</td>
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<td><strong>Professional development</strong></td>
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<td>(1) Jobs &amp; internships for EST majors; (2) Job resources at ESF and beyond; (3) Graduate school - for whom? when?</td>
<td>Tips from local public, private, and not-for-profit organizational managers. (See also Activities #2a &amp; 2b, below)</td>
<td>(See Activities #1 &amp; 2 below)</td>
<td>Building, developing, strengthening your social networks; becoming an ESF alumnus</td>
<td>LinkedIn profile completed</td>
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<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Student info sheet completed</td>
<td>Small groups: presentation and feedback on Sr Synthesis Project abstracts</td>
<td>(1) Small groups: feedback on Sr Synthesis Project outlines; (2) Attend ESF Career Services Workshops: (a) Resume and Cover Letter Writing, 2/14; (b) Preparing for the Career Fair, 2/21</td>
<td>(1) Small groups: resume feedback &amp; critique; (2) Attend (a) ESF Career Fair, 2/27; and (b) ESF Career Services Etiquette Dinner, 3/7</td>
<td>(1) EST alumni panel; (2) Social networking workshop</td>
<td>(1) Poster presentations; (2) Student “buddy” comments</td>
<td>(1) Poster presentations; (2) Student &quot;buddy&quot; comments; (3) ESF Spotlight on Research</td>
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<td><strong>Assignments due</strong></td>
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<td>#1 - Sr Synthesis Project - abstract</td>
<td>#2 - Sr Synthesis Project - report outline</td>
<td>#3A - Prof'l resume</td>
<td>#3B - Revised resume</td>
<td>#4 - Research poster; #5 - Submit poster to ESF Spotlight on Research; #6 - LinkedIn profile</td>
<td>#7 - EST student survey</td>
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<td><strong>Guests</strong></td>
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<td>EST Undergrad Coord.?</td>
<td>Turbeville; EST Grad Coord.?; EST grad students</td>
<td>Local employers</td>
<td>M. Hall/grad student</td>
<td>EST Alumni; Culkowski; Otteson</td>
<td>EST faculty</td>
<td>EST faculty</td>
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