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

David A. Sonnenfeld, Ph.D., Instructor

Dept. of Environmental Studies, SUNY-ESF TuTh 8-9:20 am, Room TBA

Fall 2019

An innovative, collaborative, applied course and group practicum in environmental policy consultation at the global level. Linked via information and communication technologies with students in a parallel course at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, EST 690 students will serve as “externs” for a semester-long consultancy project (‘commission’) with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) & United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (‘client’). Students will learn group consulting skills including issue definition and stakeholder identification; proposal preparation, team building and leadership; data collection, analysis and interpretation; consultancy report writing and presentation. With colleagues in the Netherlands, students will fulfill the client's Terms of Reference, producing and delivering a set of Science-Policy Briefs for international decision makers related to UNCTAD’s Technology and Innovation Report 2020. This year’s consultancy will focus on the anticipated effects of new technologies on existing social inequalities, potential generation of new inequalities and prospects for sustainable development. Of particular interest are cutting-edge scientific and technical fields that are rapidly changing, have high potential for broad impacts, and which are challenging for governmental and intergovernmental agencies and informed publics to understand and regulate for the common good – examples include arenas such as artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology/ bioengineering, nanotechnology, 3D printing, big data ‘mining’, etc. Final report preparation and delivery in collaboration with students from the Netherlands will continue through Friday, December 20. Course grades will be submitted in early January after receipt of the client's evaluation. Instructor's permission required.

For further information, please contact Prof. David Sonnenfeld at <dsonn@esf.edu>

* 4 cr recommended, through 12/20; 3 cr through regular end of semester.