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, Baker 141

Fall 2020

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 parallel courses at Wageningen University (Netherlands) and Van Lang University (Vietnam), EST 690 students will serve as “externs” for a semester-long consultancy project (‘commission’) with the Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and Division for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (‘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 and Vietnam, students will fulfill the client's Terms of Reference, producing and delivering a set of Science-Policy Briefs for international policy makers related to the work of the United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs on anticipated effects of emerging technologies on prospects for sustainable development. Of particular interest are those cutting-edge scientific and technical fields that are rapidly changing, have high potential for broad impacts, and which are especially challenging for governmental and intergovernmental agencies and informed publics to understand and regulate for the common good. Examples include the internet of things (IoT), renewable energy technologies, and satellite and drone technologies. Final report preparation and delivery will continue through Friday, December 18, in collaboration with students from the Netherlands and Vietnam. Course grades will be submitted in early January, upon receipt of the client's evaluation of the final report and policy briefs. Instructor's permission required.

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

* 4 cr recommended, through 12/18; 3 cr through regular end of semester.