

Environmental Studies Senior Paper, EST 400

Instructor: Prof. Andrea Parker
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE: A Senior Paper or Project provides an opportunity for Environmental Studies Seniors to complete their program requirement for a 3 credit hour Senior Synthesis. This experience is intended to provide an opportunity for synthesis of the student's Environmental Studies education with an emphasis on learning within the student's Option area. As such, it depends on prior learning in other courses and is normally completed in the final semester of study.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The senior paper or project allows for the practice of skills and knowledge learned in the classroom in a self-directed project setting. Other more specific learning outcomes are dependent upon the paper/project structure and the goals of the student.

PAPER/PROJECT OPTIONS: This should be determined prior to or at the beginning of the course.

1. A literature-based paper: In this case, the student researches the literature on a specific topic or question related to their Option area and produces a literature review style paper that makes an argument about what is known on the topic.
2. A primary research paper: In this case, the student conducts a piece of original research on a specific topic related to their Option area and produces a journal article style paper. Care must be exercised if working with human subjects as the research may be subject to review by the IRB.
3. A project: In this case, the student undertakes a creative or community-based project related to their Option area. Examples of creative projects include videos, art works, creative writing, etc. Examples of community-based projects include habitat conservation initiatives, public education projects, policy outreach, etc. There are many possibilities here, but care must be exercised in the choice of project and its ramifications for the student and any community stakeholders. In addition to undertaking the project, the student must provide a brief written report on the project that explains how the project demonstrates Synthesis in ES.

ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE TIMELINE: Completion of the following assignments is required to receive a grade:

1. Select a paper/project option and topic for the semester – Submitted to Dr. Parker prior to or at the beginning of the semester.
2. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – Submitted to Dr. Parker prior to or at the beginning of the semester. Refer to the Environmental Studies Handbook for specific MOA content (Appendix C).
3. Progress meetings: requires a meeting with Dr. Parker every other week to discuss work progress. What entails progress for these meetings will be determined at the prior meeting by the student and Dr. Parker. A schedule should be worked out between the student and Dr. Parker at the beginning of the semester.
4. Final product: The final output depends on the type of paper/project, and will be determined in collaboration between the student and Dr. Parker. In the case of a paper (either type), the output should be the paper (10-15 pages double-spaced). In the case of a project, the output will depend on how it can best be documented, but must always include a brief written report (5-10 pages double-spaced) on the project that explains how the project demonstrates synthesis in ES. All materials should be completed no later than

the last day of classes. An unmarked copy of the final submission should be submitted to the Environmental Studies office, 106 Marshall Hall, for its permanent collection.

Timeline:

Assignment	Due Date
Paper/project option and topic selection	2 nd week of classes
Memorandum of agreement	2 nd week of classes
Progress meeting attendance and reporting	Every other week
Final product	Last day of classes

GRADING: The student grade will be based on (1) submission and proper completion of a memorandum of agreement (includes paper/project option and topic selection); (2) attendance and proper preparation for reporting at progress meetings; and (3) the quality of work on the final product. The final product grade is based on the appropriateness of the content as well as spelling and grammar.

Grading Scale	
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	59% or below

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

SUNY-ESF works with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University, who is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations. Students can contact ODS at 804 University Avenue- Room 309, 315-443-4498 to schedule an appointment and discuss their needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Students may also contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, 315-470-6660 for assistance with the process. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>. Authorized accommodation forms must be in the instructor's possession one week prior to any anticipated accommodation. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a breach of trust between a student, one's fellow students, or the instructor(s). By registering for courses at ESF you acknowledge your awareness of the ESF Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.esf.edu/students/handbook/StudentHB.05.pdf>), in particular academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism and cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. The Academic Integrity Handbook contains further information and guidance (<http://www.esf.edu/students/integrity/>). Infractions of the academic integrity code may lead to academic penalties as per the ESF Grading Policy (<http://www.esf.edu/provost/policies/documents/GradingPolicy.11.12.2013.pdf>).