

# Environmental Science Seminar

## Course Description:

This course is a two-unit seminar for undergraduate Environmental Science, and Studies students. The goal of this course is to spend time thinking about what environmental science looks like out in the “real world.” What do environmental scientists do? Where do they work? How do they communicate their work with each other and the public? How do you become an environmental scientist? The course will focus on two different objectives. The first objective is for students to gain awareness of current research in environmental science by reading scientific literature and listening to scientific talks. The second objective is for students to prepare to pursue a career in environmental science or a related field upon graduation by networking with environmental science professionals and developing and polishing application materials.

## Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss a variety of current topics in environmental science research
2. Summarize and critically evaluate scientific talks
3. Apply for an internship or entry-level position in environmental science

## Program Learning Outcomes:

This course supports the Environmental Science Program learning outcomes:

- explain the interdisciplinary nature and complexities of environmental issues
- apply the scientific method to environmental issues
- skillfully communicate knowledge of environmental science
- demonstrate knowledge of environmental conditions so as to promote active participation and social justice

## Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will prepare short papers summarizing and critically assessing scientific seminars on topics related to environmental science.
2. Students will prepare a cover letter and resume for a position of their choosing.

## Reading Assignments:

There is no textbook for this course, reading materials will be handed out in class and/or made available on the class Canvas page.

## Assignments:

There will be short assignments due most weeks. The list below gives an overview of the different types of assignments we will work on.

- 1) Presentation summaries
- 2) First draft job application materials
- 3) Final draft job application materials
- 4) Profile of an organization/company/agency
- 5) Summary of informational interview

## Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is mandatory and active participation will be a critical part of this class. There will be no make-up assignments for missed discussions/presentations. Absences will be excused only with documentation of illness or another valid reason for missing class. Each member of the class will be responsible for contributing to discussions, asking informed questions of guest speakers, and providing feedback on fellow student's job application materials. Participation will be graded on the basis of contributions in class and attendance of selected events (minimum 2) throughout the semester. To get credit for outside events you will need to present a summary of the event during a regular class meeting.

Potential events include but are not limited to:

- Sustainability Cafés (11:40 Thursdays 9/7, 10/12, 11/14)
- ENVS/ENVA Graduate Studies Lunch (11:40 Thursday, 9/28)
- Schmidt Family Foundation Panel on Fracking (5:30-7:30 PM Wednesday 10/25)
- Environmental Science meet-up and clubs

## Grading:

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

**A** 93-100%

**A-** 90-92.9%

**B+** 87-89.9%

**B** 80-86.9%

**C** 70-79.9%

**D** 60-69.9%

**F** 0-59.9%

## Breakdown of Grade:

Assignments: 65%

Job Applications: 25%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

## Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction

Week 2: Internships, REUs, and Graduate Schools

Week 3: Resumes, Cover Letters, Letters of Recommendation  
Due: Program Description

Week 4: No Class

Week 5: Green Geophysics Presentation

Week 6: Resume Workshop  
Due: Green Geophysics Presentation Summary

Week 7: Bay Institute Presentation  
Due: Green Geophysics Summary

Week 8: Nature Conservancy Presentation  
Due: Bay Institute Summary

Week 9: US Forest Service Presentation  
Due: Nature Conservancy Summary

Week 10: EPA Presentation  
Due: US Forest Service Presentation Summary

Week 11: US Bureau of Reclamation Presentation  
Due: EPA Summary

Week 12: National Park Service Presentation  
Due: US Bureau of Reclamation Summary

Week 13: Shark Stewards Presentation  
Due: National Park Service Summary

Week 14: No Class  
Due: Shark Stewards Summary

Week 15: Student Presentations  
Due: Employer Profile

## Disclaimers:

### Academic Honesty

USF Student Honor Pledge (from the Fogcutter): As a University of San Francisco student, I pledge to honor the Jesuit values of the University by upholding the highest standards of honesty and integrity in my academic work and respect in my personal interactions with members of the USF community. I also intend to use the knowledge and skills I gain through my education for the common good.

USF Academic Integrity website: <http://myusf.usfca.edu/academic-integrity>

From the USF catalog: “The University expects students to be honest in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is viewed as an ethical issue and a violation of the principles of justice and personal responsibility inherent in the University's ideals as expressed in its Statement of Mission and Goals. In particular, students must refrain from plagiarism, cheating and collusion in connection with examinations and must acknowledge fully all sources and all assistance received in work submitted to the faculty for evaluation.”

Note: Plagiarism includes:

- Intentionally or unintentionally representing the words or ideas of another person as your own, failure to properly cite references and making up references.
- Working with another person when independent work is required.
- Submitting of the same paper in more than one course without the specific permission of each instructor.
- Submitting a paper written by another person or obtained from the internet.

Plagiarism or cheating on exams, quizzes and other work will not be tolerated. You may not copy any part of anyone else's work and pass it in as your own. Any plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of F for that assignment, quiz or exam; and a report will be submitted to the USF Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) <http://myusf.usfca.edu/academic-integrity>. Substantiated AIC reports will result in a record of the incident being noted in your USF academic file.

### Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability or disabling condition, or if you think you may have a disability, please contact USF Student Disability Services (SDS) at (415) 422-2613 within the first week of class, or immediately upon onset of disability, to speak with a disability specialist. If you are determined eligible for reasonable accommodations, please meet with your disability specialist so they can arrange to have your accommodation letter sent to me. You must also meet with me so that we can discuss your needs for this course. I do not need to know what your disability is, SDS will only provide their recommendations for your accommodation. For more information, please visit: <http://www.usfca.edu/sds> or call (415) 422-2613.

### Behavioral Expectations:

All students are expected to behave in accordance with the Student Conduct Code and other University policies (see <https://myusf.usfca.edu/fogcutter>). Open discussion and disagreement is encouraged when done respectfully and in the spirit of academic discourse; but there are also a variety of behaviors that, while not against a specific University policy, may create disruption in this course. Students whose behavior is disruptive or who fail to comply with the instructor may be dismissed from the class for the remainder of the class period and may need to meet with the

instructor or Dean prior to returning to the next class period. If necessary, referrals may also be made to the Student Conduct process for violations of the Student Conduct Code.

#### Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):

The diverse staff of CAPS offers brief individual, couple, and group counseling to student members of the USF community (<http://myusf.usfca.edu/student-healthsafety/caps>). CAPS services are confidential and free of charge. Call (415) 422-6352 for an initial consultation appointment. Having a crisis at 3 AM? CAPS is available for you. Telephone consultation through CAPS After Hours is available between the hours of 5:00 PM to 8:30 AM; call the above number and press 2.

#### Confidentiality, Mandatory Reporting, and Sexual Assault

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a faculty member and am required to share information with the University regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on USF's campus.

#### Important Dates:

- Last day to add class: 8/28/17
- Last day to drop or withdraw: 11/3/17