

# **Environmental Studies Senior Seminar (ENVI494)**

## **Macalester College, Fall 2020 (Module 2)**

### **Monday & Wednesday 7-8:30pm**

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Office hours Wednesday 10-11am. Sign up [here](#).

### **Access Course Website as ENVI494**



This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to studying environmental leadership by integrating a weekly seminar session and an intensive project experience (8-10 hours/week) with an environmental organization.

This course is intended to provide you with the resources, space and support for intentional reflection on how you balance personal leadership style, academic/technical skills and professional career goals. Each week we will explore a range of themes that help you analyze and interpret the work of local leaders and their organizations. The ultimate goal of the course experience is to help you explore your own leadership style and chart out a professional course for your post-Macalester years.

Over the course of the semester we will work through some challenging exercises that will eventually help you answer these questions:

- What matters most to you? How can you translate your life goals into a post-college plan?
- What are your skills, talents and academic interests? Can you identify gaps you need to fill?
- What kinds of working environments suit you best? What kind of mentors do you need?
- What are the challenges confronting recent ES graduates? How can you prepare yourself to find new opportunities and launch your career?
- Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? How do you plan to land that dream job, start that organization or get that next degree?

### **Student Evaluation**

ENVI494 is made up of a 2-credit independent project and a 2-credit seminar. To earn your 2 project credits, you need to complete 8-10 hrs of work per week and log your hours. The seminar will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

**1) Seminar attendance & participation (20%)**

Your participation grade will be based on thoughtful, respectful, and productive engagement in class discussions. You are expected to attend **every** seminar session and to complete your project hours each week. If you must be absent due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, contact me as soon as possible. If you must be absent from your project, notify your supervisor.

**2) Submission of short homework writing assignments (35%)**

There are 10 short writing assignments in this course. They are due prior to seminar meetings, unless noted otherwise. Your assignment is due by **12pm the morning of class**. They must be submitted through the course website. DO NOT e-mail assignments to me.

These writing assignments will be graded as outstanding (A), excellent (A/A-), good (B+), satisfactory (B), and unsatisfactory (C) for each submission. **I reserve the outstanding mark for those submissions that thoughtfully and articulately respond to the question prompt, and in the contexts of any assigned readings.** Occasionally, I will respond directly to your submission on Moodle. If your writing is referred to in class, your identity will remain confidential. Your writing assignments will not be shared with your project supervisor.

**3) Final paper and project presentation (30% total – paper 20%; presentation 10%)**

There will be a final project presentation session on Monday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> (time TBD) when you will share your project experiences with the rest of the college community and your supervisors. The main purpose of the assignment is to summarize your work this semester in a succinct and interesting way so that others can easily understand what you have accomplished. All supervisors will be invited to the session.

Your final reflection paper is due on **Wednesday Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** on Moodle. It should be approximately 1500-2500 words (5 single spaced pages). In this paper, I will ask you to imagine yourself 5 years from now and narrate how you have gotten there. In the paper, I expect you to reflect on your project experience in detail. What have you earned about the field you investigated? How well did your project connect with your coursework in Environmental Studies? What were your most memorable moments and what did they teach you?

**4) E-Portfolio (15%)**

This semester you will be asked to design and create a portfolio that describes your goals and achievements. It's a space for you to narrate your life story. We will workshop these in class. The final submission date is **Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> 5pm**, but you may also request an incomplete to submit over J-term.

**Final Grade Scale:** A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82). Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

**Academic Integrity:** It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college's policy on academic honesty.

**Student Health and Well-being:** Senior is normally a stressful time for most students as they begin to imagine life beyond College. And, now are adding a global pandemic, economic disruption, a historic election, and remote teaching and learning.

It is important that you let me know when you need support, which can be mental, emotional, physical, and financial. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to contact me for support.

**See class schedule, assignments and due dates on Moodle**