

Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources Senior Capstone Course

11:216:499

Fall Semester: Tuesdays 2:00 to 3:20 ENR 123

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Kimberly Russell (she/her/hers)
Kimberly.russell@rutgers.edu
Old Blake 100

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help you review, synthesize and articulate your academic and professional experience. In addition, Senior Capstone will help prepare you for the transition into the real world of finding jobs and dealing with life after graduation. You will learn how to present yourself, orally and in writing, in a way that will convince others of your value. Along with individual critiques from your instructors, a critical component of this course is peer review. You will critique each other's written and spoken assignments, and, most importantly, offer helpful suggestions. Providing and accepting valuable criticism is an important professional and life skill. Students will meet as a group in ENR 123, and individually with instructors either via Zoom or in-person.

LEARNING GOALS

- **Communicate effectively orally in writing**
- **Effectively present your professional and academic accomplishments via resumés, personal websites and interviews**
- **Communicate professionally with potential employers and/or potential graduate advisors**

Grading: The goal of this course is to increase your skills in presenting yourself to employers and graduate school advisors. Therefore, we hope this motivates you to attend and participate. To pass the course, you will need to attend **and** participate in the class and during instructor meetings. Students with more than one unexcused absence will be dropped a letter grade.

Resources: I will post lecture slides and other useful materials on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule

Important Dates		Assignments
9/6	WEEK #1: In Person	
	Introduction to the class, notes on peer review, types of jobs & where to find them	
9/13	WEEK #2 In Person	
	Career Options & Paths; Former Graduates	
9/20	WEEK #3 In Person	
	Resume Peer Review	Bring resumé draft & job ad/Grad school program description (2 Print

		copies)
9/27	WEEK #4 In Person	
	Guest Speaker: Dr. Larry Jacobs from Career Exploration and Success	
10/02		<i>Upload to Canvas modified resumé by Sunday night</i>
10/4	WEEK #5 Zoom or In Person	
	Instructor Meetings (see schedule) to discuss resumé	
10/11	WEEK #6 Asynchronous (recorded lecture)	
	Cover Letters & Personal Statements	
10/18	WEEK #7 In Person	
	Peer review of Cover Letters/Personal Statements	Bring draft of Cover Letter to class (2 Print copies)
10/25	WEEK #8 Modality (in Person)	
	Guest Speaker: Maris G. Gabliks, Cooperative Fire Specialist, United States Forest Service	
11/1	WEEK #9 In Person	
	Graduate School: What it's like and how to apply	
11/8	WEEK #10 In Person	
	Instructor Meetings (see schedule) to discuss resumé, cover letters/personal statements	
11/15	WEEK #11	
	Discussion on web presence: Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook & personal websites	
11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/27		<i>E-mail website link to Instructor by 11/27</i>
11/29	WEEK #12 Zoom or In Person	
	Instructor meetings (see schedule) to discuss websites	
12/6	WEEK #13 In Person	
	Preparing for job interviews Letters of Recommendation	Practice your ice breaker & 2 achievement stories
12/13	WEEK # 14 Zoom	
	Mock interviews by appointment	