

Full Course Title: Ocean Conservancy: Ocean Trash- Evaluation of Global Policy and Solutions

Course Title for Registration System: Ocean Trash- Evaluation of Global Policy and Solutions

Course Number: SIPAU9000.007

Faculty Advisor: John F. Williams

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Meeting Date/s Times: Wednesdays 6:10P – 8:00P

Location: IAB 501

Office Hours: Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: NA

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

Since 1972, Ocean Conservancy has promoted healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposed practices that threaten ocean and human well-being. Through Ocean Conservancy's leadership, we are helping to harness market-based approaches to accelerate the power and pace traditional advocacy approaches. As an example of this approach, Ocean Conservancy has been working for more than 7 years to amplify the voices of the sustainable seafood, conservation community, and fishermen to reward best fishing practices in the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery and develop a rebuilding plan for red snapper. Our work in this area is seen as a model of fisheries improvement throughout the conservation community. We believe in the power and transformative force of solutions supported by a diverse range of stakeholders, including the business community, as a prerequisite for success. Trash Free Seas is one of Ocean Conservancy's four primary focus areas and is a new, important priority for the organization. Ocean Conservancy is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has offices in Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific, with support from more than half a million members and volunteers.

The ocean currently serves as the end of the pipeline—from rivers, lakes, streams and other waterways—for products that are not recycled, re-purposed, or properly disposed. The resulting ocean trash inflicts harmful costs on wildlife as well as coastal communities and their economies. Ocean trash affects everyone, everywhere. We think the time has come to revolutionize our current relationship with ocean trash. Quite simply, we seek to build champions around the idea that ocean trash is too valuable to toss and harness the power of the market places to eliminate ocean trash from our planet.

The project will conduct a thorough analysis of global legislation related to ocean trash including a focus on plastics and items of concern such as plastic bags. Efforts to legislate ocean-related trash address single-use items at the municipal level (e.g. Santa Monica, California) all the way to entire nations (e.g., Ireland and Italy) that have banned plastic bags.

Deliverables to client:

The final deliverables we expect are:

- list of in-depth interviews conducted (mostly likely through phone).
- list of data sets encountered that are relevant to ocean trash issue and sustainable packaging
- list of key grey and academic literature and other references used
- List of experts recommended for future Ocean Conservancy contact
- Presentation to Ocean Conservancy leadership
- Written report to summarize findings, case studies, and recommendations

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

Research, writing, presentation skills and background in policy analysis, ability to understand technical aspects of plastics and materials science with respect to policy developments, background in economics and understanding of policy incentives related to behavior change

Initial meeting(s) with your student team in late November or early December, if applicable:

John Williams to help

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled:

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).]

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of individual contributed work (10%)
- Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)
- Feedback from the client (20%)
- Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)
- Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

Readings: TBD

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