I. TITLE: Legal and Ethical Issues in Schools

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course addresses critical aspects of the legal system as related to school issues. Ethical dimensions of the role are explored. Prerequisite: Admission to program

III. PURPOSE:
This course addresses critical aspects of the legal system as related to school issues. Ethical dimensions of the role are explored.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Candidates will:
A. Apply the ethical-legal decision-making model (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III & IV)
B. Describe what constitutes the body of educational law (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 5.4a; TSSA VI)
C. Understand the policies and procedures related to student learning and well-being inherent to their district specifically (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)
D. Understand the process by which policies related to student learning and well-being are developed, evaluated, and revised (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 5.3a; 5.4a)
E. Understand the interplay of student rights, community values and separation of church and state (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III).
F. Identify the relationship between student speech rights and policy/best practices as related to censorship, dress codes and other speech-related issues (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III).
G. Understand the implications of due process standards on school policy and best practices (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)
H. Apply Fourth Amendment principles to student search issues such as locker searches, searches of a student and drug testing (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)
I. Develop leadership qualities dealing with confidentiality as it pertains to personnel, special needs children, and working with community agencies (ISLLC III, IV, and V; KDF 4.3a,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA IV.)
J. Recognize the fundamentality of equal protection principles in education law and policy (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)
K. Recognize liabilities associated with the education and take steps to minimize risk (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)
L. Develop teacher employment and supervision policies and practices that conform to legal requirements (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 3.2c; 5.4a; TSSA III)

M. Evaluate the use of technology as related to roles, ethical/legal responsibilities, and expectations of the educational leader (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA I, VI.)

N. Develop an understanding of the connection between law and ethics in schools (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; 5.3a,b; 5.4a; TSSA III)

O. Apply the Code of Ethics of the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board to scenarios (ISLLC V; KDF 4.3a,b,c,d; TSSA VI)

P. Compare KRS, KAR, OAG, and case law to analyze their inter-relationship (ISLLC V & VI; KDF 5.4a; TSSA III)

Q. Understand the policy and procedures required by site-based decision-making councils, school districts and the state department of education. (ISLLC III, V & VI; KDF 5.4a; TSSA III)

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
   A. Ethical and Legal Decision-making and Policy Development
   B. American Legal System and Schools
   C. Education, Religion and Community Values
   D. Student Privacy and First Amendment Rights
   E. Due Process and Safe Schools
   F. Student Searches
   G. Equal Protection
   H. Tort Liability and Risk Management
   I. Teacher Employment and Supervision
   J. Teacher Constitutional Law
   K. Computers and the Internet
   L. Law, Ethics and Leadership
   M. Critical Elements of Kentucky Law and Regulation

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
Lectures, readings, discussions, problem-based papers and field-experiences. Course assignments will be reflective of the objectives and the intent of the course and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. Kentucky Principal Test Online Study Guide. Students will register for and complete a university section of the Kentucky Principal Test study guide. Feedback from the test will be used to focus discussions of Kentucky law.

B. Staff or Parent Development. Students will conduct a needs assessment regarding staff and parent understanding of basic legal principles and will create training to address weaknesses.

C. Ethical Leadership Case studies. Students will create case studies that illustrate key ethical principles.
D. Stakeholder Interviews. Administrators, parents, students and teachers will be interviewed regarding perceptions of common constitutional issues. Viewpoints will be contrasted.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
None.

VIII. RESOURCES:
A. District policies
B. Kentucky Principal test preparation course

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:
A: 92% to 100%
B: 80% to 91%
C: 70% to 79%
D: 60% to 69%
E: Less than 60%
Note: Grades of C or lower do not meet program requirements and must be retaken.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
This course adheres to the attendance policy published in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
This course adheres to the academic honesty policy stated in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

XIII. PREREQUISITE:
Admission to program

XIV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:
Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).