I. **TITLE:** Field Experiences in Environmental Education

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course will be conducted at the Land Between the Lakes Environmental Education Center. The workshop will include techniques of using the out-of-doors as a teaching tool, curriculum development skills, methods of using environmental education as a supplement to curriculum areas and localizing environmental education programs to meet the needs of local communities.

III. **PURPOSES:** To provide a formal structure for investigating the range of curriculum materials and activities presented by the interdisciplinary nature of environmental education. To further an objective approach to current environmental issues while helping students develop an environmental ethic through an active learning process.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The behaviors indicated below are understood to be reflective of but not limited to those advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines. Curriculum connections will be made with KERA Initiatives: Kentucky Learner Goals and Academic Expectations, Program of Studies, and Core Content. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference Kentucky’s Experienced Teacher Standards (ETS) and the North American Association for Environmental Education’s (NAAEE) Guidelines for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators.¹² The students will be able to:

1. help students acquire a working knowledge of environmental education principles, vocabulary and current literature (ETS 2/ NAAEE 1, 2, 3)

2. provide an integrated curriculum model of the ecological principles that are the foundation of environmental education (ETS 1, 2 /NAAEE 1, 2, 3)

3. provide opportunities to discover the available resources in the region for the support of environmental education teaching (ETS 1, 4, 5 /NAAEE 3, 4, 5, 6)

4. prepare students to investigate the natural area as a resource for all subject matter areas (ETS 2)

5. encourage the development of values which lead to commitment to participate in environmental maintenance and improvement (ETS 1, 2, 3, 4/ NAAEE 1, 2, 3)

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² North American Association for Environmental Education, a specialty group member of the National Council for the Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE)
6. assist students in developing a model for a sustainable lifestyle and an ecologically positive model for the work place (ETS 2, 3, 5/ NAAEE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

7. provide experiences which demonstrate current environmental problems and issues and examine the various cultural, economic and societal positions on those issues (ETS 2, 8/ NAAEE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
Basic ecology of our region environmental issues in our region curriculum integration (scope and sequence) of environmental education subject matter literature survey of current materials - texts, activities, audio-visual and computer assisted experiential and informal education strategies.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
Teaching units in environmental education will be developed an action plan addressing specific environmental issues, an integrated curriculum guide for environmental education. An analysis of media coverage of a regional or local issue will be assessed in addition to a, review of literature and active participative learning.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES: Land Between the Lakes and the Resource Room of the Center for Environmental Education will provide field trip experiences.

VIII. RESOURCES:
Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Center for Environmental Education, MSU Land Between the Lakes - TVA Western Kentucky Environmental Education Consortium

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:
A major portion of the grade will be dependent on the participation of the student. A project will be required for the three hour workshop. A learning contract between the instructor and student is necessary for project completion.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY: This course will abide by the current attendance policy in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: This course will abide by the current academic honesty policy in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XII. TEXTS AND REFERENCES:
Curriculum materials from the Center for Environmental Education Resource Library will make up the text requirement.

XIII. PREREQUISITES: NONE
XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:
Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.