

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

BI-838

Nature Journaling

New - Summer 2000

- I. **Catalog Description and Credit Hours:** Designed to inspire projects that use multiple disciplines. Expansion on the skills needed to engage in traditional Naturalist activities, observation, idea synthesis, descriptive writing, field sketching, research, and library skills. (1)
- II. **Prerequisite(s):** Undergraduates should have a minimum of 45 hours; graduate students should hold a baccalaureate degree.
- III. **Purposes or Objectives of the Course:**
 - A. To provide a historical understanding of Missouri's natural heritage.
 - B. To provide insight into higher brain function and creativity.
 - C. To provide sound skills in development of sketching, writing, investigation, synthesizing, and information gathering.
 - D. To provide teachers with methods and aids to teach students in the classroom and field trip settings using interdisciplinary techniques.
- IV. **Expectations of Students:**
 - A. Make enhanced observations about an ecological system.
 - B. Understand how time affects natural systems.
 - C. Identify major habitat changes that have occurred in Missouri over the last 200 years.
 - D. Extend the skills they have developed to their classroom.
 - E. Have the skills needed to continue studying nature in an interdisciplinary manner.
- V. **Course Content or Outline (include number of periods on each topic):**
 - A. Identification and development of skills needed for creative functions (3 hrs)
 - B. Gather information concerning an ecological topic (2 hrs)
 - C. Natural and cultural shifts in the landscape of Missouri (3 hrs)
 - D. Bridging the gap between liberal arts and applied disciplines (1 hr)
 - E. Exercises in applied investigation (4 hrs)
 - F. Teaching methods and materials (7 hrs)
- VI. **Textbook and/or Supplemental Materials:**
 - A. Rude Pursuits and Rugged Peaks: Schoolcraft's Ozark Journal 18-18-1819. Milton Rafferty. 1996. University of Arkansas Press.
 - B. Journals and other materials will be provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- VII. **Basis of Student Evaluation:**
 - A. Students will be expected to create a profile that includes visual, historical, and written description of an organism.
 - B. Students should participate in all given activities and attend all sessions.
 - C. Students will complete a journal that will be collected and graded.