I. TITLE:
Equine Wilderness Studies

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):
Students will be given a broader awareness of the opportunities offered in Parks and Wilderness Areas throughout the United States. Students must be experienced in riding and handling of horses. Students will receive basic instruction concerning the Federal Wilderness Act, its origin and purpose, and various Wilderness Areas in the United States, their rules and regulations. Students will also study a specific Wilderness Area, its history, flora and fauna, and related items of interest for that particular area. Students will receive instruction in knot tying, packing, and handling a pack string, Dutch oven cooking, and other necessary skills required while working for an outfitter. Classroom instruction will be followed by a working pack trip immediately after finals week in a Wilderness Area such as the Gila Wilderness Area. While on the pack trip students will be required to keep a journal as part of their grade. (Spring, 2nd half semester).
Prerequisite(s): Instructor Permission Required

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will be able to:
A. Understand the Federal Wilderness Act, its importance when established, and its importance in today’s society
B. Gain knowledge concerning Wilderness Areas in the USA, their importance and the reasons behind their rules and regulations
C. Develop leadership skills as well as skills in working with the general public
D. Properly pack, handle, and care for a string of horses and mules in a Wilderness Area
E. Travel to a Wilderness Area such as the Gila Wilderness Area, Gila, New Mexico, for a six day pack trip as working students.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:
A. Discuss what determines a Wilderness Area
B. Learn rules and regulations required when visiting a Wilderness Area
C. Study the history of the Wilderness Area that will be the pack trip destination, such as the Gila Wilderness Area
D. Learn proper methods of using horses and mules in a pack string
E. Acquire basic skills to pack in a Wilderness Area (knots used when packing, balancing a pack, use of the picket line, etc.)
F. Study the flora and fauna of a specified Wilderness Area, and
G. Prepare and execute a six day pack trip to a Wilderness Area such as the Gila Wilderness Area, following finals week.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
Weekly preparatory meetings with lectures, readings, discussions, quizzes, and a final exam. Travel component will also include tours, hikes, historical points of interest, a pack trip, and outdoor survival skills. Each student will be required to keep a journal during the pack trip. Students will be required to follow standard rules and conduct requirements outlined in pre-travel meetings.

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
A. Outfitter will instruct students while on pack trip
B. Loading pack animals, balancing load, filling panniers, covering and tying down load, proper leading of animals
C. Camp site; pitching tents, cooking, fire building, etc.
D. Care of riding string, feed, wrangling, picket line, etc.
E. Enhance interpersonal communication and conduct

VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:
Required Text: HORSES, HITCHES, AND ROCKY TRAILS by Joe Black.
All students must have signed and notarized university riding release
Students must have proof of health insurance
Students must sign a Huston School of Agriculture travel release
Students are responsible for cost of pack trip
Students must attend the pack trip to a Wilderness Area.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:
Evaluation of performance in class will include attendance, completion of quizzes, final exam, completion of a written journal, and attending a pack trip to a Wilderness Area.
All assignments will be completed as scheduled. Exceptions will be given only with prior approval of instructor.

Grading Scale:
A = 100% - 90%
B = 89% – 80%
C = 79% – 70%
D = 69% – 60%
E = below 60%

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current MSU Bulletins.
One unexcused absence will lower your grade one letter.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.
Note: Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any examination or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the examination has been compromised.

XI. 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 the Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XII. Other required departmental or collegiate committee information
Closed class; must obtain instructor permission to register.
Final grades will not be awarded until the pack trip and the written journal are completed. As a result, all students will receive an “I” as a letter grade at the end of the semester. The final letter grade will be awarded upon completion of all course requirements.