CONSERVATION/FIELD STUDIES (CNFS)

CNFS 460 Practicum in Environmental Education (3 credits)
Prerequisite(s): EDFO 200. This course is designed to provide future teachers and supervisors with a background of experience and knowledge which will enable them to organize and conduct environmental education programs. Using an extensive library of environmental education materials, students formulate teaching units, lists of teaching aids, and projects suitable for use in environmental education programs. Participating in programs with school children in residence at the School of Conservation furnishes a practical background for environmental education development.

CNFS 495 Workshop on Utilizing Natural Environments (1 credit)
Prerequisite(s): EDFO 200. To provide classroom teachers in all disciplines with experiences in using the environment to supplement classroom experiences. Opportunity for teachers to increase their knowledge of as well as skills in the techniques of incorporating the physical, biological, and socio-cultural components of the environment in their curricula will be emphasized through the use of small group lecture sessions held in the natural environment being described. Students are provided with the opportunity of administering and experimenting in each of four such environments out of a choice ranging from 15 to 20 specific subject areas.

CNFS 496 Field Study in Humanities and Natural Science (1 credit)
Prerequisite(s): EDFO 200. Provides teachers in varied and diversified subject areas with an understanding of how the humanities and sciences may be taught in various environments for the purpose of developing an environmental sensitivity.

CNFS 497 Field Studies in Social Studies and Outdoor Recreation (1 credit)
Prerequisite(s): EDFO 200. Provides an understanding of how outdoor pursuits and social studies may be taught using the environment to develop environmental sensitivity. Does not meet resident requirement.

CNFS 500 Curriculum Development in Environmental Education (3 credits)
The historical, philosophical, and conceptual aspects of developing a K-12 environmental education curriculum. The focus is on the four major curriculum areas: humanities, social studies, environmental science and outdoor pursuits with proposed activities for the classroom, school grounds, community, and natural areas, intended to enhance the students’ awareness of environmental problems and their possible solutions.

CNFS 501 Outdoor Teaching Sites for Environmental Education (2 credits)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 521. This course will include a working definition of outdoor environmental teaching sites as they relate to current developments in environmental education. Also incorporated, through lecture and discussion, will be pertinent information on the philosophy, design, construction, and use of outdoor environmental teaching sites, with special emphasis on sites which can be developed on land areas adjacent to schools.

CNFS 502 American Heritage Skills (2 credits)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 522. This course will focus on the home lifestyle for the American colonies from the 1600s to the 1800s. Various skills such as spinning, working with wool, natural dyeing, candle making, rug making, soap making, quilting, and food processing will be demonstrated. Students will have the opportunity to develop their proficiency in these areas. The colonial living skills will be integrated into a general overview of the two-hundred-year period under consideration, rather than considered as isolated elements.

CNFS 503 Humanities and the Environment (3 credits)
This course will focus on the cycle of humanity’s relationship to nature, based on three sequential stages: 1) humans in nature, in which archaic religions, myths and legends will be investigated; 2) humans vs. nature, which will be a consideration of the alienation due to the influence of science and technology; and 3) humans and nature, which will consider the new mysticism of today. The coursework will include lecture, discussion, seminar, and independent study.

CNFS 504 Field Techniques for Teaching the Humanities (3 credits)
The focus of this course is the development and improvement of techniques for teaching the humanities via the natural environment. The course will include consideration of the process of communication, the development of perception and observational skills, creative writing, literature interpretation, music, philosophy, dramatics, art, as well as historical investigations and considerations of past ways of life through the study of colonial crafts.

CNFS 505 Society and the Natural Environment (2 credits)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 525. This course will focus upon interrelationships of a forest ecosystem. Soil, water, plants, and animals found in a northeastern hardwood forest will be examined in detail. Their relationship to humankind will be discussed and reviewed.

CNFS 510 Environmental Impact of Recreation on Natural Areas (2 credits)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 511. Students will examine the impact of recreation on natural areas in four of New Jersey’s major ecosystems: upland forest, pine lands, salt marsh and barrier beach. Investigation of recreation records and plans will allow for comparison and contrast of heavily used sites with those which have been relatively undisturbed. Students develop ‘recreation impact statements’. CNFS 511 must be taken concurrently.

CNFS 511 Field Investigation of Environmental Impact of Recreation on Natural Areas (1 credit)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 510. The field experiences in this one-credit course are designed to support and supplement the theoretical foundations communicated in the course, ‘Environmental Impact of Recreation on Natural Areas’ (CNFS 510), and to provide practical exercises in measuring impact on recreational areas. CNFS 511 must be taken concurrently.

CNFS 521 Field Laboratory Experience in Outdoor Teaching Sites for Environmental Education (1 credit)
Prerequisite(s): CNFS 501. The field experiences in this one credit course are designed to support and supplement the theoretical foundations communicated in the course, ‘Outdoor Teaching Sites for Environmental Education’ (CNFS 501), and to provide practical field exercises in developing environmental education teaching site strategies.
CNFS 522  Field Laboratory Experience in American Heritage Skills (1 credit)
Corequisite(s): CNFS 502. The field experiences in this one-credit course are designed to support, supplement, and amplify the theoretical foundations communicated in the course, ‘American Heritage Skills’ (CNFS 502), and to provide practical applications of both the content of American Heritage Skills and its methodology.

CNFS 525  Field Laboratory Experience in Society and the Natural Environment (1 credit)
Corequisite(s): CNFS 505. The field experiences in this one-credit course are designed to support and supplement the theoretical foundations communicated in the course, ‘Society and the Natural Environment’ (CNFS 505).

CNFS 530  Workshop in Wildlife Management Education (1 credit)
This is a field course designed to provide information about wildlife and environmental topics to be included in a school curriculum. Curriculum supplements include Project WILD and Aquatic WILD.

CNFS 595  Conservation Biology: The Preservation of Biological Diversity (3 credits)
Prerequisite(s): One semester of college biology with laboratory. This course addresses concerns about the loss of biological diversity and genetic resources through species extinctions. Students will learn about the importance of maintaining biological diversity, the problems involved in monitoring and protecting sensitive and crucial habitat, the impact of human societies on biodiversity, the alternatives to the destruction of habitat/species, the prospects of restoration, and the policies needed to prevent the loss of biological diversity. Students will also learn about population processes that are directly related to species survival. Mutually Exclusive with BIOL 595.

CNFS 601  Advanced Environmental Education Seminar (2 credits)
Corequisite(s): CNFS 621. Prerequisite(s): CNFS 500. The seminar for advanced students who want to examine, in depth, a selected topic related to current developments in environmental education. The seminar will choose a particular issue facing environmental education, develop a method for studying that issue, and produce a publishable work (e.g., curriculum materials or academic paper) related to the topic.

CNFS 609  Independent Study in Environmental Curriculum Development (1-4 credits)
Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval. Teachers, who have participated in academic programs at the School of Conservation and wish to deepen their understanding of environmental education activities, may enroll in this independent study. In doing so, they may develop an environmental education program for a specific grade level, subject discipline, or school district. Credit is dependent on the scope and depth of the program to be developed. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.

CNFS 610  Administration and Supervision of Environmental Field Study (2 credits)
Corequisite(s): CNFS 620. This course is intended to provide an overview of administrative procedures in organizing and implementing a day or resident program in environmental education. Among the areas to be reviewed are: historical and philosophical perspectives, development of a field curriculum, staff selection and training, financial management, facility design, and selection of equipment.