In this course, educators will study a variety of journaling techniques and artistic medium for observing and documenting the natural world, including the use of field sketching, map making, daily logs, data collection, observational notes, and writing for reflection. The course is designed to: 1) introduce educators to strategies for improving the artistic, written and reflective abilities of K-12 students using nature experiences; 2) encourage educators to use the outdoors around the school and community as sites for nature-related observation, documentation, and artistic/written expression; and 3) help educators develop school-based curriculum strategies for integrating art with science and writing through nature journaling.

**Instructors:**

Dr. Susan Tomlinson, MBC Adjunct Faculty  
Dr. Tamra Willis, MBC Associate Professor, Graduate Teacher Education

**Course Texts:**

Tentative Course Schedule:

Day one: *Tapping into your Sense of Wonder*
- Welcome and introductions
- Introduction to Your Journaling
- Environment-Based Learning and MWEE (Watershed Address).
- Journaling techniques: Learning to Observe (the daily log, observational note-taking, map making I)

Day two: *Documenting your Sense of Place*
- Journaling Techniques for your “Sense of Place”- (reflective writing)
- Field trip to Cyrus McCormick Farm Wayside, Steeles Tavern, VA
  Stream and field studies
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

Day three: *Drawing Nature*
- Field Sketching (trees, birds, wildflowers)
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

Day four: *Pictures plus Words: Journaling at its Best*
- Strategies for outdoor art
- Map making II
- Developing a nature journaling program
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

Day five: *No Child Left Inside*
- Tips for taking students outside
- Creating your own journal (photography, “found” objects, book-making techniques)
- Sharing ideas for implementation

Summer 2014– Involvement in class discussions and activities via Blackboard

Tentative Assignments:

1. Develop a Nature Journaling implementation plan for teaching nature observation, reflection, art and writing to K-12 students. This will include an overview to guide lessons/units and a graphic organizer of your plan. In the narrative, describe and demonstrate how you would use journaling and/or provide journaling opportunities to students.

2. Keep a nature journal. During the week of class, keep a nature journal to illustrate different journaling techniques. The journal will be a portfolio to show what you have learned in the course. Grades will be based on content, not artistic abilities.

3. Write reflective responses via blackboard (i.e. 4-5 reflections) and participate in discussion board activities.
4. Anything else we decide (as a group) that would help you implement ideas learned in the course!

Note: You will submit all assignments via blackboard. We may work on them during the week in class, but most will not be due until after we meet.

Please review the MBC Honor Code.
Grading Scale: 96-100A, 94-95A-, 92-93B+, 88-91B, 87-88B-, 85-86C+, 82-84C, 80-81C-

Course Details:
1. You will need art materials: listed below. You may either bring them with you or purchase an Art Kit from us at a cost of around $25. Please let us know ASAP if you want to purchase the Kit from MBC.
   - Mechanical Pencil with HB Lead
   - Prismacolor watercolor pencil set
   - Small watercolor brush

2. We will supply a “bare book” journal for each of you, but you may also want to bring your own journal for the course. If so, please purchase one with unlined paper that is heavy enough to accommodate watercolors.

3. Please bring a Crazy Creek chair for sitting on the ground.

4. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Bring rain coats. We will go outside.

5. Please bring a water bottle and coffee mug if possible.

6. If applicable, please bring a copy of grade-level appropriate standards (for one or more grades). Also, bring year-long calendar/pacing guides you may use in your work (something that tells what you teach when).

7. Please bring any books or other resources (you happen to have handy) related to journaling or nature education. We will share resources with each other. If you have books by or about well-known nature journalists, please be sure to bring those!

8. We will go on at least one field trip and plan to car pool as much as possible. You might want to bring a digital camera to record ideas on these trips.

*Note: Drawings and journal page by Betty Gatewood.