

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**CRMJ 201- Criminal Justice Cooperative Education I**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title:	CRMJ 201 - Criminal Justice Cooperative Education I
B. New or Modified Course:	Modified
C. Date of Proposal:	Semester: Fall                      Year: 2012
D. Sponsoring Department:	Business & Public Service
E. Semester Credit Hours:	3
F. Weekly Contact Hours:	Lecture: Laboratory: Work Site: 150 hours
G. Prerequisites:	CRMJ 101-Introduction to Criminal Justice, Coordinator's Approval
H. Laboratory Fees:	None
I. Name/Email of Coordinator:	William J. Flynn wflynn@raritanval.edu

**II. Catalog Description**

*Prerequisite: CRMJ 101-Introduction to Criminal Justice, and approval of coordinator.* Introductory work program in a component of the criminal justice system that provides an experiential learning opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in public service occupations. Students will be exposed to the roles of various criminal justice system practitioners at Federal, State, County and local agencies and appropriate private sector entities. Students will be encouraged to observe and critically analyze the day-to-day operations of a criminal justice agency and apply theoretical concepts learned in the classroom to the work environment.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. Cooperative education opportunities are an integral part of the experiential learning process for students seeking careers in the criminal justice system. This course will afford the student an opportunity to connect the academic material with the day-to-day operations of a criminal justice agency. By interacting with practitioners, students develop marketable skills and begin to establish valuable networks. Through observation and participation, students are better informed to decide on career choices.
- B. This course consists of 150 hours at a selected worksite in the criminal justice system.
- C. As posted on NJTransfer.org, this course transfers to most New Jersey Colleges and Universities as an elective credit.

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course is an elective in the following programs: Criminal Justice AA and Law Enforcement AAS Degrees
- C. To see course transferability: for New Jersey schools go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org). For all other colleges and universities, go their individual websites.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Students and agency supervisors will develop a set of five substantive goals for completion during the course of the semester. These goals will be approved by the program coordinator. Students will keep a daily journal of observations, experiences and analyses of practices. Students will also keep regular time records, which will be verified by the agency supervisor and complete regular evaluations of progress toward their goals.
- B. In addition to regular communication and collaboration with the coordinator, the student will attend three scheduled seminars with the criminal justice cooperative education coordinator.

#### **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will:

1. Produce written work that reflects critical analysis of their experience, observation and participation at their agency. (GE-NJ 1 \*)

2. Develop the ability to communicate clearly and logically, using both verbal and writing skills, with members of the criminal justice agencies and the clients they serve. (GE-NJ 1)

(\* Embedded critical thinking)

## **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the functions of the criminal justice agency
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the specific agency
3. Assess the role of the agency in the criminal justice system
4. Identify operational obstacles faced by the agency
5. Identify and discuss the role of ethical behavior in criminal justice agencies

## **VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

This course will employ the following modes of teaching:

1. On-the-job training, observation, participation and experience
2. Independent study
3. Seminars
4. Regular communication and collaboration with coordinator

## **VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments**

This course will employ the following methods of assessment:

1. Student's daily journal of observations, experiences, and analyses of practices
2. Attainment of stated five substantive goals
3. Written evaluation by agency supervisor
4. Written paper on critical analysis of cooperative education experience

## **IX. Grade Determinants**

Due to the nature of the course, traditional types of evaluation are less appropriate and as such, various subjective methods of evaluation are necessary. Student grades will be based in part on the agency supervisor's evaluation of the student's on-the-job performance and the student's ability to demonstrate to the coordinator that he/she has experienced academic benefit from the work assigned. In addition, the student's log and a written paper will be used to assess the students according to the general education goals and learning outcomes listed above.

## **X. Texts and Materials**

No text or materials are required

## **XI. Resources**

The course will take place off-campus, at the workplace, and no special RVCC resources will be required