

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**CRMJ-234 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: CRMJ-234 Criminal Investigation
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2018
- E. Sponsoring Department: Business and Public Service
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 hours  
Laboratory: None  
Out of class student work per week: 6 hours
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Introduction to Criminal Justice, CRMJ-101
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Anne Marie Anderson, [annemarie.anderson@raritanval.edu](mailto:annemarie.anderson@raritanval.edu), Terence Lynn [Terence.Lynn@raritanval.edu](mailto:Terence.Lynn@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisite: CRMJ-101, Introduction to Criminal Justice. This course examines the process of a criminal investigation from preliminary investigation through arrest and trial. The fundamentals of criminal investigation are covered including investigative responsibilities, identification of physical evidence, preservation of evidence, analysis of evidence, and the legal aspects of the investigation. This course provides a sound method for reconstructing a past event relative to crime, based on three major sources of information: people, physical evidence and records.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course is part of a comprehensive curriculum that seeks to analyze how criminal investigations are handled from initial crime to the conviction. Criminal Investigation is a contemporaneous topic.
- B. No lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Criminal Justice course or as an elective.

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

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program elective for the Criminal Justice AA degree
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

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

- A. The Foundation and Principles of Criminal Investigation
- B. Legal Aspects of an Investigation
- C. The Investigative Process
- D. Follow up Measures: Obtaining Information
- E. The Crime Laboratory
- F. Specialized Investigations

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

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

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

1. Communicate in writing and/or orally an understanding of criminal investigations. (GE-NJ 1)
2. Evaluate how social factors affect the process and outcomes of the way crimes are investigated. (GE-NJ 5)

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

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

1. Assess the duties and responsibilities of a detective/officer to the scene of a crime.
2. Compare real world police practice to the criminal investigation process.
3. Examine the chain of evidence process to ensure proper in-court identification.

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

- A. Examination/Quizzes
- B. Research papers
- C. Class participation
- D. Written assignments

### **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Examinations/Quizzes
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Class Participation
- D. Service Learning Option

Modes of teaching and learning used in this course:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Small-group work
- C. Scenarios
- D. Student written presentation
- E. Field Trips
- F. Simulation/role playing
- G. Guest Speakers

### **VIII. Texts and Materials**

**Required Text:** Criminal Investigations, By Swanson, Chamelin, Territo and Taylor, Published by McGraw Hill. Latest edition

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

### **IX. Resources**

N/A

### **X. Honors Options**

N/A