RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Theory and Practice of Corrections CRMJ-242
Course Outline

I. Basic Course Information
A. Course Prefix and Title: Theory and Practice of Corrections CRMJ-242
B. Date: April 2005
C. Sponsoring Department: Business and Public Service Department
D. Semester Credit Hours: 3
E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture 3 Laboratory 0
F. Prerequisites: None
G. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description
This course covers the history and philosophy of correctional institutions and their operation. It examines how contemporary society handles criminal offenders as well as methods of reducing crime.

III. Statement of Course Need
This course is part of a comprehensive curriculum that seeks to analyze the complex correctional process system through the examination of its components. This course plays an integral part towards understanding the procedures, the principal actors and the concept of incarceration.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
This course is an elective in the criminal justice program. According to NJ Transfer, this course transfers to most institutions as Intro to Corrections or an elective.

V. Outline of Course Content
Early History
A Century of Change
The Age of Prisons
The Modern Era
Correctional Ideologies: The Pendulum Swings
Felon, and Misdemeanants: A Dual System
The Correctional Funnel
Sentencing/Appellate Review
Probation and Intermediate Punishments
Imprisonment/Parole
VI. General Education Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

General Education Goals
Students will:
1. Evaluate the ethical issues in sentencing criminal offenders. (G.E. 5)
2. Produce works that reflect critical understanding of the theory and practiced of corrections. (G.E. 1)
3. Debate with others the issues involved in the corrections system. (G.E. 2)

Student Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to:
1. Analyze the correctional system, including the impact of corrections on the entire criminal justice system.
2. Investigate the history of corrections and the theories employed over the years.
3. Identify common elements of institutions such as clientele, personnel, control and change.
4. Examine the sociology of prison life from the inmate’s perspective as well as the correctional employee’s viewpoint.
5. Examine the relationship between sentencing and corrections.
6. Identify alternatives to certain institutional structures as well as the possibility for realizing such treatments.

VII. Modes of Teaching

• Lecture/discussion
• Guest speakers

VIII. Assessment Methods

• Examinations
• Term Paper
• Service Learning Option
IX. Grade Determinants

Examinations, term paper and service learning option will be used to assess the students according to the learning outcomes and general education goals stated above.

X. Suggested Materials

Textbook:
Author(s): Corrections in the United States
Title: Champion
Publisher: Pearson, Prentice Hall
Edition: Latest

XI. Resources

No special resources will be required for this course.